

Geneva, August 16th, 1932.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

NANSEN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR REFUGEES

(Under the Authority of the League of Nations)

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Note by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith to the Assembly the report of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees.

The report deals with the various aspects of the refugee problem and gives full information concerning the measures taken and contemplated by the Office during the first stage of its existence from the commencement of its activities down to June 30th, 1932.

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE NANSEN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR REFUGEES**

CHAPTER I. — GENERAL ACTIVITIES.

(a) PRELIMINARY.

The report submitted by the Governing Body to the twelfth Assembly was prepared when the Office had been in existence for about three months only and was confined necessarily to an account of the organisation of the Office and to the plan of liquidation requested by the eleventh Assembly. The Governing Body has therefore considered it desirable, in the present report, to furnish a full account of the principal activities of the Office, from April 1st, 1931, the date it came into existence, until June 30th, 1932.

The following is a résumé of the principal functions conferred on the Office by its Statutes :

“ Article 3.

“ (a) Collecting and collating information regarding the material and moral welfare of the refugees ; facilitating the task of finding them work and settling them, and for that purpose collecting useful information as to the conditions of labour in the countries to which they emigrate ;

“ (b) Giving general directions to relief institutions which already exist, or which may be established subsequently with the authorisation of the various national authorities, and co-ordinating their work ;

“ (c) Collecting and distributing, with the help of other bodies, particularly the Advisory Committee of the Private Organisations, the resources placed at its disposal with a view to the improvement of the lot of the refugees, including resources derived from the sale of Nansen stamps ;

“ (d) Facilitating, within the limits of its competence, the application, in particular cases, of the arrangements that have been made for the benefit of refugees.”

“ Article 13.

“ (e) The Office shall take over all the assets and all the liabilities of the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.”

The Statutes state that the funds of the Office shall be derived from the following sources :

“ Article 14.

- “ (1) Such annual grants as may be made to it by the League of Nations ;
- “ (2) The proceeds of the sale of Nansen stamps (but such proceeds shall not be used to meet administrative expenditure) ;
- “ (3) The proceeds of fees and sums derived from refugees ;
- “ (4) Donations, legacies and grants from Governments, public or private institutions, associations or individuals, accepted by the Office in virtue of decisions of the Governing Body.”

The Statutes also stipulate that the accounts of the Office shall be audited once a year by the League of Nations' auditor.

For purposes of administrative convenience, it was arranged that the Secretary-General of the League would give the necessary investiture to the representatives of the Office in those cases where the services of a League representative were deemed necessary for the execution of the Arrangement and Agreement of June 30th, 1928, relating to the legal status of refugees (see Chapter I(d)). For similar reasons, the Secretary-General subsequently found it desirable to entrust to the representatives of the Office the functions mentioned in Article 1 (f) of that Arrangement, which consist of recommending the refugees to the competent authorities, particularly for the purpose of obtaining visas, permits to reside in the country, admission to schools, libraries, etc.

(b) ORGANS OF THE OFFICE.

The organs of the Office are the Governing Body, the Managing Committee and the Finance Commission.

The Statutes of the Office provide for meetings of the Governing Body at the end of April and October. The pressure of urgent refugee questions, however, necessitated the convocation of the Governing Body on four occasions during the nine months of its existence in 1931 and at the end of April 1932. To deal with the current activities of the Office, the Managing Committee and the Finance Commission have met eight and nine times respectively since the creation of the Office.

Colonel Bicknell, the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, having relinquished that position on his return to America, vacated his post on the Governing Body. Professor WERNER, Vice-President of the International Red Cross Committee, who had acted as Colonel Bicknell's substitute, was invited unanimously by the Governing Body to replace Colonel Bicknell, and Mr. SWIFT, the newly-appointed Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, was elected unanimously to succeed Professor Werner as substitute member of the Governing Body.

(c) DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF THE OFFICE.

Since the receipt of the affirmative replies on this subject, mentioned in the report of the Office to the last Assembly, from the Governments of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, the Saar Territory, South Africa, Sweden and Yugoslavia, affirmative replies have been received from the following Governments : Argentine, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Japan, Spain and Switzerland.

(d) CO-OPERATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

In response to enquiries made of various Governments concerning the necessity of the co-operation of the representatives of the Office in the refugee work in their territories, representatives of the Office have been maintained in the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Yugoslavia and the Mandatory Territory of Syria. At the request of the Governments concerned, the representatives of the Office in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France and Yugoslavia have been given the investiture of the Secretary-General of the League for the execution of certain articles of the Agreement and Arrangement of June 30th, 1928.

In consequence of the increasing gravity of the refugee problem in Roumania, the Governing Body decided, with the approval of the Roumanian Government, to open a representation in that country, and appointed M. POKLEWSKI-KOZIELL as its honorary representative.

The Austrian Government having notified its inability to continue the contribution on which the representation in Vienna was maintained, the Office was obliged to close that representation at the end of 1931. The Governing Body, however, noted with satisfaction the decision of the Austrian Government to nominate Dr. MONTEL, Chief of the Immigration Service of the Ministry of the Interior, as the honorary representative of the Office in Austria.

The representative in Belgium, M. Kehren, of the Belgian Immigration Office, who had performed extremely useful services for the refugees during the last three years, resigned his post in June 1932, and was succeeded, on the recommendation of the Belgian Government, by M. COUBAUX, late of the Belgian General Consulate in Kharkoff.

It was with the most profound regret that the Office learned in June of the death of M. Paul Hesse, the assistant representative to Dr. Alice Masarykova in Czechoslovakia. M. Hesse had been associated with the refugee work in Istanbul, Brazil and Czechoslovakia for more than ten years.

The budget for 1932 having been reduced by the Assembly in the circumstances mentioned in Chapter II, the Governing Body was compelled to close a major representation, and decided that the suppression of the representation in the Argentine would have the least serious repercussion on the welfare of the refugees as a whole. That representation was therefore liquidated on June 30th, 1932.

(e) INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS.

The Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission, which remained attached to the League but for which the Office provides the Secretariat, held its fourth session in August 1931 and transmitted to the twelfth Assembly a series of recommendations for the betterment of the conditions of the refugees and concerning the establishment of a Convention to stabilise their situation on the liquidation of the Office.

At the request of the Commission, the Council, at its sixty-fifth session, invited Dr. Max HUBER to become an advisory member of the Commission and requested the Belgian Government to nominate a member to the Commission. In conformity with that request, the Belgian Government nominated Senator Albert FRANÇOIS to serve on the Commission.

The recommendations of the Commission were adopted by the Assembly and distributed to the interested Governments, and a summary of the recommendations and replies forms Appendix I to this report.

The Advisory Committee of Private Organisations met on March 21st, 1932, and drew the attention of the Office to a number of pressing problems concerning the refugees. The Advisory Committee laid especial emphasis on the fact that the refugee problems, at a time when they appeared to be on the high road to a satisfactory solution, had become aggravated by the economic crisis. It urged the Office, in particular, to devote attention to the precarious situation of the 100,000 Russian refugees in China mentioned in the resolution adopted by the twelfth Assembly; to the acute situation of the refugees who had recently crossed the Dniester into Roumania, and to the many thousands of Armenian refugees who could not be assimilated in Greece and to the possibility of their transfer to the Armenian (Erivan) Republic. To achieve those and other objects, the Committee stressed the importance of a wider support of the Nansen Memorial Fund. The Committee furthermore endorsed the proposals made during the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission in August last that a Convention would constitute the best means of securing the stability of the situation of the refugees on the liquidation of the Office. The Committee also urged that the representations of the Office in their present form should be maintained as long as possible and, to that end, recommended that the budgetary proposals contained in the liquidation plan submitted by the Office to the last Assembly should be accepted without further modification. The Committee finally recommended that, in order to prepare for the continuation of the refugee work on the liquidation of the Office, advisory committees to the representatives should be appointed forthwith, in order that they might be in a position to carry on the work of those representatives.

In compliance with the wishes expressed by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission and the Advisory Committee of Private Organisations, the Governing Body, at its meeting in April 1932, approved an exhaustive questionnaire on the whole refugee problem. The object of that questionnaire, which has been addressed to the members of the Governing Body, of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission and of the Advisory Committee of Private Organisations, is to ascertain whether the Convention mentioned above would be the best means of securing the stability of the situation of the refugees on the liquidation of the Office.

(f) *Expulsions.*

Both the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission and the Advisory Committee of Private Organisations for Refugees have called serious attention in their reports to the increasing tendency of certain Governments to expel from their territories refugees who are not in possession of entry visas to neighbouring countries.

These cases fall within the competence of the Office under Article 1(f) of the Legal Status Arrangement of June 30th, 1928, and make calls on the time and resources of the Office out of all proportion to their number.

The Office therefore ventures to express the earnest hope that Governments will consider the possibility of refraining from the expulsion of refugees until they have obtained entry visas to other countries and thus save those refugees the very real hardships resulting from the irregularity of their situation in the countries to which they are expelled.

CHAPTER II. — ASSEMBLY ACTION.

The twelfth Assembly adopted the following resolutions on the work of the Office :

“ The Assembly,

“ Recognises the endeavours made by the Governing Body of the Office to comply with the request of the eleventh Assembly to prepare a plan for the liquidation of the Office before the end of 1939, and notes that it has prepared a scheme which gives effect to the suggestion made by the Supervisory Commission that the budget of the Office should be reduced by approximately 10 per cent per annum ;

“ Recommends the adoption of the plan of liquidation proposed by the Governing Body and of the Rules of Procedure and Financial and Staff Regulations of the Office ;

“ With a view to facilitate the liquidation by the Office of its staff,

“ Invites the Secretary-General of the League and the Director of the International Labour Office to accord, as far as possible, a preference to that staff when vacancies occur in their respective organisations ;

“ Requests the Governing Body of the Office, in its future reports to the Assembly, to give full information concerning the various aspects of the refugee problems and the measures taken and contemplated by the Office for their solution ;

“ Having noted proposals made for the transfer to the Armenian (Erivan) Republic of some thousands of Armenian refugees, and bearing in mind the resolution on this subject adopted by the tenth Assembly,

“ Invites the Office to examine carefully the possibility of facilitating the transfer of such of those refugees who desire to proceed to the Armenian (Erivan) Republic, if it is satisfied that such transfer is in the best interests of the refugees ;

“ Requests the Office to devote particular attention to the precarious situation of more than 100,000 Russian refugees in China, with a view to their settlement in employment in other countries ;

“ Urges the interested Governments which have not already done so to put into full application the Nansen stamp system ;

“ Invites the Governments to encourage and facilitate the creation in their territories of National Committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund ;

“ Requests the Governing Body of the Office, in consultation with the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees, to consider the advisability of preparing a Convention to ensure the protection of the refugees on the liquidation of the Office ;

“ Recommends that the Belgian Government be invited to nominate a delegate to the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees ;

“ Requests the Council to communicate to the Governments the recommendations adopted by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees at its fourth session concerning certain facilities for the refugees.”

The plan of liquidation referred to in the Assembly resolutions above was based on annual reductions of 10 per cent of the contributions of the League to the budget of the Office, but provided for larger contributions during the early years of the existence of the Office to permit of an intensive action for the solution of the refugee problems during that period. Those larger contributions were, however, compensated by the more accelerated reductions proposed for the latter years of the Office's existence, and by the proposal in the plan to liquidate the Office in 1938 instead of at the end of 1939 as suggested by the eleventh Assembly.

The two following tables serve to illustrate the budgetary effects of those alternative plans:

	Annual 10 per cent reductions Swiss francs	Office proposals Swiss francs
1932.	300,420	330,847
1933.	270,378	315,000
1934.	243,340	300,000
1935.	219,006	280,000
1936.	197,105	250,000
1937.	177,394	} 234,153
1938.	159,655	
1939.	143,689	
	<hr/> 1,710,987	<hr/> 1,710,000

Although the Assembly adopted the plan proposed by the Office, involving a contribution by the League for the year 1932 of 330,847 francs to the Office budget, it found it necessary subsequently, for reasons of financial stringency, to reduce that contribution by 10 per cent — *i.e.*, to 297,762.30 francs. In accepting that reduction for the reasons stated, the President of the Governing Body of the Office explained to the Assembly that the reduction in question could be regarded only as of an exceptional character and not as a precedent.

In conformity with the Governing Body's plan, as approved by the twelfth Assembly, the Governing Body submitted for 1933 a budget which provided for a contribution from the League of 315,000 francs. The Supervisory Commission, however, at its forty-sixth session in May 1932, considered that it was not possible to recommend that the Office should be granted, in respect of 1933, a contribution superior to that granted for 1932 — *i.e.*, 297,762.30 francs.

If these reductions are maintained, the Governing Body of the Office will have to consider, at its next session, whether it will have to propose modifications of the plan of liquidation.

CHAPTER III. — STATISTICS.

(a) EXISTING REFUGEE SITUATION.

The following table shows the approximate numbers of Russian, Armenian, Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish refugees able to work but unemployed; invalid and infirm refugees and infant refugees, for whom there is little or no material provision, as well as an estimate of the charges, direct or indirect, caused by their presence to the countries in which they live.

Countries	Total number of refugees			Number of refugees able to work but unemployed, or employed in occasional or temporary work or still to be settled			Number of refugees unable to earn their living (including the war invalids and children)			Charges borne this year by Governments owing to the presence of refugees on their territory
	Rus- sians	Arme- nians	Assyrians, Assyro- Chaldeans and Turks	Rus- sians	Arme- nians	Assyrians, Assyro- Chaldeans and Turks	Russians	Armenians	Assyrians, Assyro- Chaldeans and Turks	
Austria ¹	2,401	263	—	53	—	—	298 (160) ²	65 (20) ²	—	—
Belgium	8,389	—	—	(New statistics are in preparation)						—
British Empire :	(Recent statistics are wanting)									
United Kingdom	(Recent statistics are wanting)									
Cyprus ¹	40	2,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iraq ¹	28	2,000	3,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Palestine ¹	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bulgaria	16,625	14,398	—	6,500	4,000	—	4,000 (1,500) ²	1,850	—	426,600 Swiss francs
China	97,386	521	—	24,600	—	—	9,500 (7,750) ²	—	—	—
Czechoslovakia	10,500	—	—	several hundreds	—	—	2,000	—	—	3 million Czech. crowns
Denmark ¹	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danzig	800	—	—	400	—	—	—	—	—	—
Estonia	16,000	—	—	2,800	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finland	15,000	—	—	10,825	—	—	—	—	—	2.5 million Fin. marks
France ¹	400,000	R. & A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	50,000	—	—	30,000	—	—	2,500 (1,000) ²	—	—	—
Greece	1,500	26,000	450	160	6,500	—	350 (250) ²	9,000 (3,000) ²	—	—
Hungary ¹	4,751	15	—	—	—	—	1,901	—	—	—
Italy ¹	1,154	603	—	427	R. & A.	—	203 (63) ²	R. & A.	—	—
Japan ¹	2,356	24	—	1,657	—	—	580 (455) ²	—	—	—
Latvia	14,000	—	—	6,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lithuania	8,000	—	—	1,500	—	—	3,500	—	—	—
Norway	(Very small number)									
Poland	90,000	—	—	38,000	—	—	—	—	—	500,000 zloty
Roumania ¹	70,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain ¹	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden ¹	1,000	—	—	500	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland ¹	2,266	250	—	—	—	—	218	—	—	—
Syria	1,000	120,000	10,000	—	9,000	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey :										
Istanbul	1,500	—	—	400	—	—	150	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	28,800	190	45	5,500	30	10	6,676 (1,250) ²	—	—	33.3 million dinars
	844,326	166,764	14,095	129,322	19,530	10	31,876 (11,910) ²	10,915 (3,556) ²	—	—

Note. — This table will be completed from the replies to the questionnaire sent out in conformity with the instructions given by the Governing Body at its last session.

¹ Figures taken from the table appended to the report presented to the eleventh Assembly.

² Figures in brackets refer to children.

(b) SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

The assistance afforded by the Office in connection with the settlement of unemployeed refugees falls under a variety of headings. It ranges from the colonisation work in Syria — where more than 20,000 Armenian refugees have been evacuated from insalubrious camps, which were recognised by the French mandatory Power to be a danger to the indigenous populations as well as to the refugees themselves, and settled in agricultural colonies and in pleasant urban quarters — to the individual advances made to refugees to enable them to commence modest enterprises for the support of themselves and their families.

The larger-scale settlement activities are dealt with in Chapter V of this report, but it may be useful to recapitulate here the results of the various measures which have resulted in the settlement, since the beginning of the Office's activities, of 14,292 refugees.

Settlement in Syria :

(a)	Agricultural	35
(b)	Urban	3,950
		3,985
	Transfer of Armenian refugees from Greece to Soviet Armenia	6,269
	Transfer of Mennonites and Lutherans from Harbin to South America	772
	Individual or small group settlement	3,266
		14,292

The above figures refer to the number of refugees settled, or whose settlement has been facilitated, by the Office. Many more refugees were settled, however, thanks to a less direct assistance from the Office, but regarding whom it is not always possible to obtain statistics. The instance of the 4,000 Armenian refugees who have become settled in Syria, and are referred to in Chapter VI (b), is a case in point.

(c) INTERVENTIONS IN FAVOUR OF REFUGEES.

The Office performs daily a large variety of useful services to refugees to enable them to overcome the disabilities inherent in their situation of persons without nationality, and consequently without consular protection. The assistance thus rendered to the refugees is often of an important but intangible nature whose value cannot be crystallised into numerical characters.

Some idea of the services thus rendered may, however, be gathered from the following résumé of the activities of the representatives of the Office in certain countries :

Table showing the Interventions on Behalf of the Refugees made by the Representatives of the Office during the Period from April 1st, 1931, to June 30th, 1932.¹

	Germany	South America	Austria ¹	Belgium	Bulgaria	France	Greece	Poland and Baltic States	Czechoslovakia	Turkey	Yugoslavia	Totals
I. Issues and renewals of Nansen passports (applications to local authorities for the issue of identity certificates):												
Russians	935	—	228	—	8,392	51	2	893	71	—	124	10,696
Armenians	—	—	—	—	2,852	14	12	—	—	—	12	2,890
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	—	—	—	12
II. Issues of visas (steps taken for their obtainment):												
(a) Entry visas:												
Russians	—	—	2	7	198	120	15	140	94	33	149	758
Armenians	—	—	—	—	28	20	36	—	—	—	15	99
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Transit visas:												
Russians	92	—	—	1	56	5	2	30	119	34	50	389
Armenians	—	—	—	—	6	—	175	—	—	—	6	187
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Return visas:												
Russians	—	—	—	219	—	7	—	97	—	—	110	433
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	6
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	5
III. Establishment of documents referred to in Article 1 of the Arrangement of June 30th, 1928, or of similar documents:												
(a) Certifying the identity and the position of the refugees (apart from the interventions mentioned in No. 1 above):												
Russians	190	30	34	47	21	35	—	200	5	—	25	587
Armenians	—	12	—	—	2	17	3	—	—	—	3	37
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Certifying their family position and civil status in so far as these are based on documents issued or action taken in the country of origin of the refugees:												
Russians	184	—	—	—	12	437	30	48	16	52	18	797
Armenians	—	—	—	—	1	144	122	—	—	—	2	269
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
(c) Testifying to the regularity, validity and conformity with the previous law of their country of origin, of documents issued in such country:												
Russians	52	15	—	—	19	22	9	—	2	—	3	122
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	41	20	—	—	—	3	64
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Certifying the signature of refugees and copies and translations of documents drawn up in their own language:												
Russians	2	100	—	—	93	102	38	114	2	—	46	497
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	105	182	—	—	—	1	288
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Testifying before the authorities of the country to the good character and conduct of the individual refugee, to his previous record, to his professional qualities, and to his university and academic standing:												
Russians	2	—	—	168	44	1	10	62	12	—	44	343
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	2	150	—	—	—	—	152
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Austria, up to December 31st, 1931.

Table showing the Interventions on Behalf of the Refugees made by the Representatives of the Office during the Period from April 1st, 1931, to June 30th, 1932.¹ (continued).

	Germany	South America	Austria ¹	Belgium	Bulgaria	France	Greece	Poland and Baltic States	Czechoslovakia	Turkey	Yugoslavia	Totals
(f) Recommending the individual refugee to the competent authorities, particularly with a view to his obtaining visas, permits to reside in the country, and admission to schools, libraries, etc. (apart from the recommendations mentioned under paragraphs I and II)												
Russians	341	—	9	—	34	(num.)	2	685	47	—	111	1,229
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	25	27
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
IV. Other interventions :												
(1) Legal assistance :												
Russians	—	10	—	—	121	—	29	13	36	—	37	246
Armenians	—	—	—	—	31	—	485	—	—	—	1	517
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Exemptions from restrictions applied to foreign labour :												
Russians	1,103	—	1	1	403	(num.)	—	175	1	—	—	1,684
Armenians	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Expulsions :												
Russians	308	—	1	11	7	131	1	119	30	—	8	616
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	102	1	—	—	—	3	106
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(4) Taxation :												
Russians	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	2	13
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(5) General certificates of indigence (apart from the documents mentioned in paragraph V, 2) :												
Russians	354	—	—	3	—	—	1	307	—	—	47	712
Armenians	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	1	12
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
V. Issues of Nansen stamps :												
(1) Issue of Nansen stamps :												
Russians			199	1,539	1,596	4,397	—	—	—	—	2,868	10,599
Armenians												
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees												
(2) Issue of certificates of exemption from the Nansen stamps :												
Russians	—	—	29	—	7,199	17	1	—	—	—	6,714	13,960
Armenians	—	—	—	—	2,449	—	4	—	—	—	4	2,457
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VI. Other activities — i.e., applications to private and national organisations for relief in cases of unemployment, indigency, sickness, old age, etc.; investigations; consultations; translation of documents, etc.; letters to debtors, guarantors and employers for the recuperation of advances; sundry recommendations (apart from the settlement of refugees) :												
Russians	2,521	1,160	149	119	(num.)	(num.)	(num.)	777	2,713	—	629	8,068
Armenians												
Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees												
Total for Countries	6,087	1,327	652	2,115	23,571	5,771	1,364	3,678	3,148	119	11,064	58,896

¹ Austria, up to December 31st, 1931.

(d) STATISTICS OF THE CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE OFFICE.

During the period under review, the Office at Geneva received 6,639 letters, and despatched 4,908 letters.

The difference between the numbers of letters received and those despatched is due very largely to an arrangement in force, introduced for reasons of economy, between the Office and its representatives that the former would only acknowledge the receipt of reports and routine correspondence if expressly requested to do so.

The Office also prepared twenty-five reports of meetings of the organs of the Office, and 175 reports to those organs.

To enable an opinion to be formed of the volume of the work thus performed, it should be stated that, on June 30th, 1932, the Staff of the Central Office consisted of ten officials, including a messenger.

CHAPTER IV. — FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE.

Apart from the budget of the Office, which for the year 1932 amounted to 354,851.15 Swiss francs, of which, as already stated, the League provides 297,762.30 francs, the Office administers on behalf of the refugees the Nansen Stamp Fund, the Nansen Memorial Fund, the Fund for the Settlement of Armenian Refugees in Syria and the former Private Fund of Dr. Nansen. The total sum administered by the Office up to June 1932 amounted to 1,422,000 francs, of which 206,500 francs were from the Nansen Stamp Fund, 538,000 francs from the Nansen Memorial Fund, and 219,000 francs from the Private Fund. A first list of the subscribers to the Nansen Memorial Fund forms Appendix II to this report. The Syrian Fund is utilised solely for the purpose of making advances to the refugees to enable them to become self-supporting. Outright gifts or repayable advances are made from other refugee funds at the discretion of the competent organs of the Office. The table which forms Appendix III to this report affords some idea of the services rendered to the refugees by those Funds.

The accounts of the Office for the year 1931 were transmitted to the League in conformity with the Statutes and Financial Regulations, and submitted to an exhaustive examination by the League auditor. The Governing Body was gratified to note that the League auditor expressed general satisfaction with the manner in which the Office accounts had been administered.

CHAPTER V. — SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.

(a) SETTLEMENT OF ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN SYRIA.

Towards the end of 1926, when the High Commission for Refugees was invited by the mandatory Power to co-operate in the solution of the Armenian refugee problem in Syria, of more than 100,000 refugees in that country, there were some 40,000 living under the most precarious conditions, mostly in temporary hutments in the Alexandretta, Aleppo and Beyrouth camps.

The settlement plan, drawn up in close consultation with the High Commissioner for Syria, had as its primary object the liquidation of these camps.

As a general rule, the settlement policy adopted was to create agricultural colonies and to construct urban quarters, and to enable the refugees to purchase their holdings by instalments. In many cases, however — notably in Aleppo and Beyrouth — it was found preferable to make advances to groups of refugees and to individual refugees to enable them to construct their own quarters in conformity with general plans laid down by the Office.

The following tables show the settlement operations which have so far been effected :

Name of urban settlement	Families settled before March 31st, 1931	Families settled from April 1st, 1931, to June 30th, 1932	Total families settled
<i>District of Beyrouth :</i>			
1. Pavillons	155	3	158
2. Gebelli plot	330	20	350
3. Lot No. 603	63	—	63
4. Nor-Marache	400	50	450
5. Trad plot	131	20	151
6. Giustini plot	10	11	21
7. Hadjien plot	33	84	117
8. Khalil Badaoui	33	—	33
9. Badaoui plot — <i>Les pentes</i>	—	15	15
10. Assef Khouri plot	—	51	51
On private property	—	9	9
<i>Damascus</i>	110	—	110
<i>Aleppo</i>	800	345	1,145
<i>Alexandretta</i>	256	—	256
<i>Kirik-Khan</i>	60	—	60
Totals	2,381	608	2,989

Name of agricultural settlement	Families settled before March 31st, 1931	Families settled from April 1st, 1931, to June 30th, 1932	Total families settled
Haiachene	78	—	78
Abdal-Huyuk.	57	3	60
Sooug-Sou	40	—	40
Nor-Zeitoun	21	—	21
Massyaf	41	4	45
Kirik-Khan.	35	—	35
Bey-Seki	20	—	20
Totals	292	7	299

The total of 2,989 urban settlements refers to the number of quarters actually provided. To arrive at the number of urban families whose settlement has been effected, this figure should, however, be increased by 30 per cent, seeing that that proportion of settlers has taken in sub-tenants who were not in a position to take advantage of the instalment purchase facilities offered by the Office.

The total number of families settled should, therefore, appear as follows :

Agricultural families	299
Urban families, 2,989 plus 30 per cent.	3,886
Total number of families	4,185

The average Armenian refugee family consisting of five members, the total number of Armenian refugees settled amounts approximately to 20,900. The total sum expended on the settlement of these refugees amounts to 11,578,500 French francs, of which six million francs have been contributed by the mandatory Power and the remainder by philanthropic organisations whose contributions have been enumerated in previous reports to the Assembly. Of that expenditure, 1,510,100 French francs have been reimbursed by the refugees.

During the past year, an important contribution of £6,500 has been made by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, which has also promised a further generous grant of £5,000.

A contribution of £3,000 was made to the Nansen Memorial Fund by the British United Committee (consisting of the " Save the Children " Fund, the Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund, the Friends of Armenia and the Society of Friends) in favour of the settlement work in Syria. The total contributions made by the British United Committee in favour of that work now amount to £21,100.

The executive settlement work is carried out by the representative of the Office in Syria, in co-operation with an Advisory Committee, consisting of members nominated by the High Commissioner for Syria, and in consultation with representatives on the spot of the interested Armenian refugee organisations.

It is impossible, within the limited scope of this report, to give more than a very superficial survey of the manifold activities performed by the representative of the Office in the execution of his mandate. More detailed particulars of the settlement activities will be found in the summary of an historical account of the settlement work prepared by the representative of the Office in collaboration with officials of the High Commissioner in Syria, which forms Appendix IV to this report. It may, however, be interesting to note that those activities include the purchase of land, seeds, agricultural implements and materials for the construction of houses ; the allotment of the land in consultation with the municipal authorities ; interventions for taxation and construction facilities ; the planning of urban blocks, roads, drainage and lighting ; the settlement of disputes between vendors, purchasers, tenants and their neighbours ; collection of hire-purchase instalments ; arrangements with the Land Registry for the transfer of property deeds to the refugees on the completion of purchase ; and the administration of the settlements, including health and school services.

In addition to the direct settlement work effected by the Office, reference should be made to assistance of an indirect, but nevertheless important, character which has been afforded to the Armenian refugees. Numerous refugees have found employment with local enterprises, where their well-known qualities have contributed, in no small measure, to the economic development of the country. Armenian refugee labour in large public works and the various Armenian refugee settlements has, in fact, contributed largely to the transformation of Aleppo and Beyrouth from Oriental into modern cities.

It is, perhaps, worthy of note that the whole of the administrative work referred to above costs the Office the sum of 26,600 Swiss francs per annum.

(b) TRANSFER OF ARMENIAN REFUGEES FROM BULGARIA AND GREECE TO SOVIET ARMENIA (ERIVAN).

The twelfth Assembly invited the Office to examine carefully the possibility of facilitating the transfer of those Armenian refugees who desired to proceed to the Armenian (Erivan) Republic. In compliance with that request, the Office consulted all the responsible Armenian refugee organisations, and received the assurance that some thousands of Armenian refugees

in Bulgaria and Greece, who were in a very difficult situation and could not be absorbed into the normal economic lives of those countries, had registered of their own free will for transfer to Erivan. Those organisations moreover expressed the opinion that they were satisfied, from reports submitted by their representatives in the Armenian Soviet Republic, that it would be in the best interests of those indigent refugees to be transferred to Erivan, where the Government had made provision for the employment and accommodation of 6,000 of them. The proposal of the Armenian Soviet Republic was to settle those refugees, for the most part, on lands of the Sardarabad Plain, which had been irrigated in accordance with the plan recommended by the mission to Erivan headed by Dr. Nansen in 1925 at the request of the fifth Assembly.

The Governing Body, after a careful examination of reports on the subject submitted by the Managing Committee, came to the unanimous conclusion that, in view of all the circumstances, it could not withhold its co-operation from so important a movement affecting the welfare of some thousands of Armenian refugees.

The Armenian Government having intimated its willingness to assume full responsibility for the refugees on their arrival at Batoum, it remained for the Office to organise the transfer arrangements as far as that port for 5,000 Armenian refugees from Greece and 1,000 Armenian refugees from Bulgaria.

The Office considered it desirable, as a first step, to arrange for a close co-ordination of the activities of the interested bodies, and to that end recommended that representatives should be appointed by the Greek and Soviet Armenian Governments, and by the Armenian and other interested organisations, to co-operate with the representatives of the Office for the execution of the necessary evacuation arrangements.

In response to a request made by the Office, the Greek Government, in spite of the heavy expenditure it had already incurred on behalf of the Armenian refugees and of the prevailing financial stringency, generously agreed to provide free transport to Batoum for a maximum number of 10,000 Armenian refugees from Greece. Funds, however, had to be found for the cost of assembling the refugees at the ports, for clothing and medical assistance, and for their food during the sea voyage.

A third of the necessary funds was provided by the Office from the Nansen Memorial Fund; a third by the Armenian General Benevolent Union; and a grant of £500 was made by Miss Edith Roberts — who has so generously contributed of her time and resources to the Armenian refugee settlement work in Syria — towards the remaining third. Clothing and medical assistance were provided by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Greek Red Cross. Preparations for the transfer were carried forward so rapidly that, by the end of December, the first convoy, consisting of nearly 2,000 refugees, had reached Armenia and had been settled in employment and houses awaiting their arrival, and, by the end of June, no fewer than 6,269 Armenian refugees had been transferred from Greece and settled in Erivan.

According to reports received from the interested Armenian refugee organisations, those refugees have, for the most part, been settled satisfactorily in various industrial and commercial enterprises.

The transfer of the 1,000 Armenian refugees from Bulgaria to Erivan has been delayed by difficulties in arranging for their transport to Batoum. In reply to an enquiry made by the Office, the Bulgarian Government expressed the regret that the existing financial situation precluded it from providing free sea transport for those refugees to Batoum.

The Office has, however, arranged for the early departure from Bulgaria of about 600 Armenian refugees who are in a position to pay their own transport expenses, and has taken steps to provide food for those refugees and to facilitate their visa and other formalities.

The possibility of developing still further the settlement of Armenian refugees in Erivan is dealt with in the concluding chapter of this report.

(c) EVACUATION OF RUSSIAN REFUGEES FROM CHINA (HARBIN).

1. *Mennonite Refugees.*

The twelfth Assembly requested the Office to devote particular attention to the precarious situation of more than 100,000 Russian refugees in China. The complete solution of that problem would have necessitated expenditure far in excess of the total finances of the Office. For the moment, the Office has, thanks to the co-operation of certain private organisations, been able to proceed to a solution only of that part of the problem consisting of more than 1,000 refugees in Harbin. The plight of those refugees, mostly Catholics, Lutherans, and Mennonites, was particularly tragic. Those refugees, of whom 350 were women and 380 children under 12 years of age, fled from Russia some months ago and, after great difficulties in Northern Manchuria, finally reached Harbin. There they had scarcely had time to make a temporary camp before they found themselves isolated by military events in the region of Harbin. In the face of that situation, the Office redoubled its efforts to secure the settlement of those refugees in a country where they could pursue their peaceful agricultural activities.

Interesting prospects were opened up by the offer made by the Paraguayan Government to the Council of the League in September 1931, and transmitted by the Council to the Office for action, to facilitate the settlement of those refugees in Paraguay near existing Mennonite refugee colonies. In spite of the formidable distance to cover and the consequent heavy

transport costs, thanks to the organised good will of relief committees manifested by laudable financial efforts made by the Central Mennonite Committee and the European Central Office for Inter-Church Aid, and to special transport facilities organised by the Office, definite arrangements had been made for the transfer of the first group of 600 Mennonite refugees to Paraguay, when quite unexpected objections, raised against their settlement in the region contemplated, prevented the Office from executing its carefully planned settlement programme.

It now became necessary for the Office to approach the question of the evacuation of the refugees from Harbin from a different angle. Once again its negotiations were successful, but once again unexpected obstacles to their successful execution arose, as the first part of the refugees' long pilgrimage — *i.e.*, the journey from Harbin to Dairen and Shanghai, their port of embarkation — involved their passage through the very heart of the theatre of military operations in the Far East. This formidable difficulty was finally overcome thanks to the enterprise and courage of M. Cuénod, the representative of the Office in Shanghai, who, with grants supplied from the Nansen Memorial Fund, undertook to convoy the refugees from Harbin to Shanghai, where, in spite of the bombardment of the town, they were safely embarked on February 27th for Marseilles. Thanks to the co-operation of the League of Red Cross Societies, the French Red Cross, and to the Mennonite organisations in the Netherlands, sorely needed medical and clothing comforts were arranged for the refugees on their arrival at Marseilles.

With the embarkation of the refugees at Shanghai, the Office felt that it could at last congratulate itself that a peaceful future had been assured for these unfortunate refugees, but, to its dismay, a cable reached it after the departure of the boat from Shanghai saying that it had been imperative to embark 373 instead of 300 refugees for whose transport funds had been collected with such great difficulty. Full sympathy was felt for the officials on the spot, who, when faced with a direct issue, could not find it in their hearts to tear families apart in order to limit the convoy to 300 persons. The Mennonite refugee organisations had, however, strained their credit to the maximum in guaranteeing the cost of the transport of 300 refugees. There was no time to approach other potential contributors, as the shipping company demanded a definite guarantee of payment for these additional 73 refugees as an alternative to landing them at Hong-Kong on March 1st.

On the horns of this dilemma, the Office, after negotiating by telephone with the shipping company in Paris, and with the Mennonite organisations in Germany and America by telephone and telegram, finally succeeded in saving the situation by advancing the extra transport costs from the Nansen Memorial Fund, pending the raising of the necessary additional sums by the Mennonite organisations.

2. Lutheran Refugees.

At the beginning of May, a second group of refugees was evacuated from Harbin. Those refugees, descendants of the Lutheran refugees from Germany and Switzerland who were afforded asylum in Russia by Catherine II, and who settled in Wolhynia, on the Volga and in Siberia, gained for themselves, by their industry, thrift and high sense of moral and social discipline, an excellent reputation among their Russian hosts. There, for one and a half centuries, they had lived in peace with their new-found compatriots and left their imprints on the country by the creation of towns which they named after their cities in their own countries, such as Stuttgart, Würtemberg, Basle, Zurich, Schaffhausen, etc., and, owing to their admirable qualities, gradually achieved comparative prosperity.

Recent events in Russia, however, caused these peasant farmers to abandon their homes in search of another asylum, and, after many adventures, those of them who were sufficiently robust and fortunate finally succeeded, in the winter of 1930-31, in crossing the frozen rivers of Siberia and Manchuria and in reaching Harbin. There, after manifold difficulties, they succeeded in reconstructing their lives on a modest basis in temporary hutments, when the events in China rendered their continued presence in Harbin undesirable.

Arrangements were made for their settlement as colonists in Brazil, thanks to the sympathetic attitude of the Brazilian Government; to the devoted efforts of the Lutheran World Convention (which, in spite of the prevailing financial crisis, succeeded in obtaining funds from the Lutheran Churches in various countries); to Count Moltke, the creator of the Nansen Memorial Fund Committee in Denmark, whose contributions to that Fund enabled the Office to co-operate financially in the movement; and to the French Red Cross, which, in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies, once more agreed to offer valuable medical assistance to the refugees at Marseilles on their arrival and at Bordeaux on their embarkation for Brazil, and to provide Russian-speaking nurses to accompany them on their journey from Marseilles to Bordeaux. Finally, a tribute should be paid to the organising ability of the representative in China of the Nansen Office, who, in the remarkably short space of a few days, assembled those refugees at Harbin, arranged their passport and visa formalities, their medical inspection and vaccination, conducted them over the railway from Harbin to Changchun and Dairen, which had just previously been cut, and succeeded in accelerating the boat service from Dairen to Shanghai, thus enabling the embarkation of the 395 refugees at the last moment on the *Porikos* at Shanghai on May 7th.

(d) REFUGEES IN ROUMANIA.

In the spring of 1932, the attention of the Office was called to the situation of a large number of refugees who crossed the Dniester into Roumania and who were, for the most part, in a destitute condition. The Roumanian Government had afforded those refugees temporary relief, but felt that the problem was of a character which should not fall entirely upon its shoulders, particularly in view of the fact that Roumania had for some years past assumed heavy charges on behalf of the tens of thousands of Russians and Armenians who had already taken refuge in the country.

The Governing Body, at its session in April, had also under consideration urgent appeals in favour of those refugees, who were said to number about 2,000, from the International Federation of Unions for the League of Nations, various Ukrainian refugee organisations and from the Advisory Committee of Private Organisations for Refugees.

The Governing Body learned with satisfaction and gratitude on that occasion that the Roumanian Government had succeeded in settling 581 of those refugees and was prepared to afford the Office facilities for the settlement of the remainder in Roumania as *métayers*. The Governing Body made a grant of 8,000 Swiss francs to enable an experimental settlement to be made on a small scale and will follow the results with the closest interest. The Roumanian Government has intimated its willingness to co-operate with the Office further in the work of settling the refugees from across the Dniester, if the Office is in a position to make available more adequate funds for the purpose.

CHAPTER VI. — CONCLUSION.

It will be seen from the foregoing chapters that, in spite of the general economic depression which has borne so heavily on so many millions of national workers, and of necessity with much greater weight on the refugees who are unable to rely on the support of a Government, the Office has, by means of its direct efforts, facilitated the settlement, during the first year of its existence, of 14,292 refugees.

The services rendered to the refugees and enumerated under Chapter III (*c*) are, although less tangible, no less important for the promotion of the welfare of the refugees. The outright grants and loans made to refugees and to refugee organisations referred to in Chapter IV have been applied to the worst-ried of the refugees — the aged, the infirm, the sick and the young children. The value of that particular form of assistance rendered by the Office may perhaps be best described by the following extract from a letter on the subject addressed to the President of the Office by a group of refugees' organisations members of the Advisory Committee for Refugees :

“ Thanks to the grants and subsidies which the Nansen International Office for Refugees has made to the Russian organisations whose headquarters are in Paris and in whose name we are writing to you, the falling-off and the disastrous restriction of their activities have been avoided.

“ Thanks to these grants and subsidies :

“ *The Relief Committee of the Zemstvos and Russian Towns for Russian Citizens in Foreign Countries* has been able to maintain, during the current year, the most important establishments affording relief to refugee children in France, Germany, Poland, Finland, Estonia and Latvia, which have provided for 1,167 children, to feed 378 children of unemployed or invalid parents, to provide the necessary premises for the school and the boarding-school at Narva (Estonia), to prolong the functions of the Agricultural Commission which, during the first seven months of 1932, has given assistance to 717 refugees, and to take the necessary steps towards settling artisan refugees in the agricultural localities in France.

“ *The General Management of the Old Organisation of the Russian Red Cross* has been enabled to assist more than 200 Russian consumptive refugees, and to maintain certain establishments face to face with the direct difficulties, particularly the Sanatorium of the Russian Red Cross in France, near Paulhaguet (Haute-Loire), fitted up to receive forty patients, the Maison de Repos for consumptives, at Chelles, near Paris, where thirty-five patients have benefited by the help of the Nansen Office, and the dispensaries in Paris and Berlin, at which an average of more than fifty persons daily have received necessary attention and assistance.

“ *The Central Committee of Patronage of the Russian Members of Universities in Foreign Countries* has been able to furnish the means (in the form of loans for education and grants) to seventy-five Russian students to continue their studies and to become self-supporting.

“ *The General Management of the Federation of Russian War Invalids in Foreign Countries* has maintained the activities of the Home for Invalids at Chaville (France), at Kniagevo and at Chipka (Bulgaria), as well as the Home for Invalids and Wounded War Veterans at Tegel (near Berlin), all of which shelter and care for the needs of 300 invalids and wounded veterans of the great war. Further, the General Management has been able to ensure the welfare of 200 invalids and wounded veterans in Bulgaria.

“ *The General Union of the Associations of Russian Veterans in France* has found it possible to alleviate, by means of loans, the lot of more than 600 totally or partially unemployed veterans of the great war.

“ In reality, the assistance which you have afforded to refugees through their organisations is much greater, seeing that you have given your co-operation also to numerous organisations centred in other countries.

- (Signed) M. AVXENTIEFF, President of the Relief Committee of the Zemstvos and Russian Towns for Russian Citizens in Foreign Countries ;
- B. IVANITSKY, President of the General Management of the Old Organisation of the Russian Red Cross ;
- MICHEL FEDOROFF, President of the Committee of Patronage of Russian Members of Universities in Foreign Countries ;
- M. KALNITSKY, President of the General Management of the Federation of Russian War Invalids in Foreign Countries ;
- P. CHATILOFF, President of the General Union of the Associations of Russian Veterans in France ;
- M. MAKLAKOFF, President of the Central Committee of Russian Refugees in France ;
- I. RUBINSTEIN, President of the Central Commission for the Study of the Conditions of Russian Refugees.”

* * *

The principal problems remaining to be solved by the Office are the following :

- A (a) The settlement of the refugees able to work but unemployed ;
- (b) Assistance to refugees incapable of working (old people, invalids and children) ;
- B (a) Preparatory work relating to the Convention in conformity with the resolution of the twelfth Assembly ;
- (b) Creation of local institutions to be charged ultimately with the unfinished work of the representations of the Office on their liquidation.

The measures contemplated by the Office for the solution of those problems were foreshadowed in the report submitted to the last Assembly and fall under two broad headings : firstly, by means of the Convention whose ultimate object would be to secure for the refugee workers, invalids and children, as far as possible the same conditions as those of the nationals in the countries in which they reside, and, secondly, during the transitory stage, by means of the settlement of the unemployed refugees and by the provision of relief to the refugees incapable of working.

The possibilities of the Office in connection with the settlement of the refugees and the provision of assistance to the refugees incapable of working and mentioned in the Table in Chapter III are necessarily almost wholly dependent on its financial resources. Experience has, in fact, shown that, even in dealing with the difficult question of unemployment, the Office has, thanks to its international contacts and to the co-ordinated goodwill of the various charitable organisations, been able to achieve notable results at a very small cost per head. If, therefore, Governments could see their way to adopt the above-mentioned Convention and ensure the general issue of the Nansen stamp and if comparatively modest funds could be obtained from other sources, the Office need not despair of liquidating substantially the refugee problems by the time it is due to terminate its activities.

It will suffice to give a few examples of the manner in which the Office could, if such modest funds were placed at its disposal, liquidate a large portion of the existing refugee problems :

(a) SETTLEMENT OF 20,000 ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN ARMENIAN (ERIVAN) REPUBLIC.

According to reports made to the Office by the responsible Armenian refugee organisations, the Armenian Government is prepared to receive and settle in Erivan no fewer than 20,000 additional Armenian refugees, who cannot be assimilated by other countries, on condition that external financial co-operation is forthcoming for the purpose.

It should be recalled that the Armenian Government has shouldered the whole cost of the irrigation of Sardarabad Plain, contemplated by Dr. Nansen's Erivan Settlement Plan, as well as the cost of the settlement and accommodation of the 8,000 Armenian refugees transferred or to be transferred to Soviet Armenia this year.

(b) SETTLEMENT OF ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN SYRIA.

An account has been given in Chapter V (a) of the progress made with the settlement of the Armenian refugees in Syria. From that account, it will be seen that, out of a total of 40,000 Armenian refugees who were in the camps of Alexandretta, Aleppo and Beyrouth, 20,900 have already been settled by the High Commission for Refugees and the Office, and that a further 4,000 Armenian refugees have been enabled to settle, thanks to less direct efforts of the Office.

There still remain, however, about 15,000 refugees in camps who must be settled before those camps can be destroyed and the acute portion of the Armenian refugee problem in Syria regarded as liquidated. Fortunately, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, or an aggravation of the economic situation, some of those refugees will be able to settle themselves with some small assistance from the Office. The full assistance of the Office will, however, be required for the remainder. The numbers of these refugees is shown in the appended table :

	Total number of refugee families in camps	Number for whom Office assistance is necessary
Alexandretta	250	150
Aleppo	1,400	800
Beyrouth	1,500	900
Total	3,150	1,850

Taking the average Armenian refugee family at five persons, it will be seen that the Office has now to concentrate its attention on the settlement of about 9,000 Armenian refugees. It is estimated that, for this purpose, about three and a half million French francs will be required, of which :

	French francs
The Office had in hand, on June 30th	1,268,000
Promised by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (£4,000)	360,000
Reimbursements by refugees in 1933	500,000
Total	2,128,000

At a conference held in Paris in June 1931 between M. Ponsot, the High Commissioner for Syria, Dr. Max Huber, the President of the Governing Body of the Office, and the competent officials of their respective organisations, it was agreed that every effort should be made to evacuate the refugee camps and to complete the work of settling the refugees remaining in the camps before the end of 1933. In the absence of unforeseen difficulties, the Office contemplates the possibility of closing the Beyrouth camp by that date and of liquidating the Aleppo camp shortly afterwards.

It must not be assumed, however, that the clearance of the refugee camps is synonymous with the liquidation of the whole of the Armenian refugee problem in Syria. Many of these refugees are, at the best, living from hand to mouth, and the slightest change for the worse in the economic situation of the country must have as an inevitable result the return of a considerable number of those refugees to destitution. The Office must, therefore, regard it as a moral obligation for some time to come to watch over the welfare of its *protégés* in Syria, in order that the good which has already been done may not be undone by too hasty a liquidation of its activities in that country.

The Office has, moreover, obligations of a most specific character after the cessation of the actual work of settlement at the end of 1933. Definite engagements have been entered into with the donators to the Syrian Fund regarding the administration and the final destination of the settlement funds. Some donators have asked for the return of a portion of their funds, whilst others have expressed the wish that their contributions should be devoted to the improvement of the social and other conditions of the refugees. Furthermore, there is a definite obligation to the refugees to ensure that the title deeds of their properties are handed to them in good order on the completion of the purchases of their properties.

These eventualities were foreseen during the arrangements arrived at in Paris in June 1931, to which reference has been made above, when it was agreed that, at the end of 1933, an organisation should be set up in Syria, in consultation with the High Commissioner for Syria, which would enable the Office to fulfil its obligations and bring the refugee work in Syria to a final and satisfactory conclusion.

A proposal to that end will be made in the next report of the Office to the Assembly.

(c) SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN ROUMANIA.

As already stated under Chapter V (d), about 2,000 refugees have crossed recently the Dniester into Roumania. The Roumanian Government has settled about 500 of these refugees, and has generously offered to afford facilities for the settlement in Roumania of the remainder, if the Office is prepared to afford some financial co-operation.

It is estimated that an advance of approximately 150,000 Swiss francs will be required for the emergency relief and settlement of those refugees.

(d) COLONISATION.

Most immigration countries having been obliged by the prevailing economic situation to close their doors to immigrants who seek employment in their territories and who would only swell the existing considerable number of unemployed national workers, the Office sees no immediate prospect of transferring refugees as salaried workers, in large numbers, to such countries. Nevertheless, the transfer this year of 800 Lutheran and Mennonite refugees from Harbin to South America indicates that there are still interesting openings in that part of the world for colonists, and that certain Governments are disposed to accept refugees who are suitably equipped as colonists. The Office is exploring those possibilities with a view to ascertaining if the creation of such a movement would be beneficial alike to the refugees and to the countries willing to receive them. Once again, however, the dimensions which such a movement could assume would depend largely, if not entirely, on the funds the Office is able to obtain. The cost of such settlement work — approximately 3,000 Swiss francs per family of five persons, including the somewhat heavy transport expenses — may at first sight seem high, but it is not exaggerated when it is borne in mind that it transforms the refugees from charges on public and private funds into constructive members of the community.

(e) SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE.

The difficulties encountered, for the reasons already mentioned, in securing employment for refugees in immigration countries, and the restrictions operating in almost every country against the introduction of foreign workers, have compelled the Office to devote particular attention to the question of settling refugees in employment in the countries where they now reside.

The information given in Chapter III (b) illustrates that interesting results have been obtained in this connection, groups of individual refugees having been established in a variety of enterprises. Particular attention should be directed to the measures taken in Poland, in close co-operation with the Polish authorities, where more than 200 refugees are being settled in fishing, tobacco and quarrying enterprises for an advance made by the Office of 150 Swiss francs per head. The Office hopes, with the benevolent co-operation of the interested Governments, to develop this form of settlement on an appreciable scale.

(f) RELIEF WORK.

It has been shown under Chapter III that there are 42,791 aged, infirm and invalid refugees, and 15,468 infant refugees who are unable to work and for whose support practically no provision exists. The problem of these refugees is the most difficult with which the Office has to deal. An account is given in Chapter VI and Appendix III of the assistance given by the Office to organisations which endeavour to care for these refugees, but that assistance has only been able to touch the fringe of the problem. The situation of those refugees, always extremely precarious, has become seriously aggravated by the reduction in, and in many cases the complete extinction of, the revenue of the refugee organisations consequent on the general economic depression. The Office would be failing in one of its most elementary duties if it remained indifferent to this state of affairs, and cannot contemplate the normal liquidation of its activities without exploring every conceivable means of securing at least the modest endowment of refugee institutions which would ensure a minimum protection for these sorely tried and most deserving objects of human compassion.

Appendix I.

REPLIES FROM GOVERNMENTS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AT ITS FOURTH SESSION.

I. In conformity with the decision of the Council on September 29th, 1931, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations transmitted, on October 27th, 1931, for the benevolent consideration of the interested Governments, the recommendations formulated at its fourth session by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees.

Those recommendations refer :

To the participation of the President of the Governing Body of the Office and of a delegate of the Belgian Government in the work of the Inter-Governmental Advisory

Commission, to the utility of establishing a convention with a view to assuring protection for the refugees after the liquidation of the Nansen Office, to the definition of the term "refugee", to the period of validity of the Nansen certificates, to their renewal and to their prolongation, to the return clause which they should bear, and to the granting of visas, to the expulsion of and to the refusal of entry of refugees, to the problems of the Armenian refugees, of war invalids and of children.

The following is a summary of the replies received :

Argentine Government. — As soon as the Argentine Congress will have reached a decision concerning the position of the Argentine Government with regard to the League of Nations, the Congress will consider the possibility of a collaboration of the Republic with the noble efforts made in favour of the refugees.

Aware of the difficulties with which refugees, the bearers of expired passports, have to contend, the provisional Government decided by decree, on November 14th, 1931, to deliver to them, and to all foreigners without regular nationality, passports permitting the bearers to leave the Argentine and to return thereto during the whole period of their validity — *i.e.*, one year.

Australian Government. — The whole question relating to refugees affects Australia to a very limited extent. However, most of the recommendations in question have already been agreed to by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia. With regard to the clause in Nansen certificates regarding the return journey, a practice has been established in Australia requiring all foreigners who wish to return to that country without restriction to obtain re-entry permits, which must be presented in addition to any travel documents held by them.

Austrian Government. — In principle, identity certificates are delivered in Austria for a period of one year, and contain the return clause. The Austrian diplomatic and consular authorities have the right to deliver, without the previous consent of the central authorities, transit visas as well as entry visas, the latter only to persons who, from a political point of view, are not suspect, and have either a visa for entry into another country or an authorisation for their return to the country which delivered to them the identity certificate. The diplomatic and consular authorities have not to intervene in the matter of renewals and prolongations of Nansen certificates, seeing that Austria in principle delivers these certificates only to persons residing in Austria.

With regard to the other questions put forward in the report of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission, the Austrian Government refers to the previous communications summarised in the preceding report of the Office to the Assembly (document A.27.1931).

Government of the United Kingdom. — The refugees definitely established in the United Kingdom, who desire to proceed temporarily to another country, can obtain in London the return visa before their departure. This procedure has given every satisfaction and the Government does not see any reason to modify it.

With regard to the delivery, for a limited period, of visas by consuls, under their own responsibility and without reference to London, the Government has found by experience that, unless close control is exercised, refugees holding these visas are apt to find themselves in the United Kingdom without the means of securing admission to any other country. For this reason, while the Government has felt able to agree to the grant of a certain discretion to the Consul-General in Paris in this matter, it is not disposed, at present, to agree to any extension in this arrangement.

Colombian Government. — Up to the present, no problem relating to the question of refugees has required the attention of the Colombian Government.

On the other hand, the legal and administrative dispositions in force in matters of passports do not admit either of the delivery or of the visa of Nansen certificates.

Government of Denmark. — The Danish Government refers to the observations made previously which figure in the first report of the Office to the Assembly (document A.27.1931), under letters *b*, *c*, *d*, and *f*, and adds that it has no further observations to make on the report of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission.

Egyptian Government. — The Egyptian Government has no objection to make with regard to the recommendations in question, and is in complete agreement with the proposals submitted relating to the insertion of the return clause in the Nansen certificates, and to the prolongation of these certificates in other countries. It reserves, however, the right to deliver Egyptian documents to refugees who may be authorised to reside in Egypt.

Estonian Government. — The regulations applied to refugees coincide in a general way with the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission, except as regards the recommendations referring to the introduction of the Nansen stamp and to the delivery of entry visas. The Estonian Government has abstained from introducing the Nansen stamp system in view of the extreme poverty of the great majority of the refugees domiciled in that country. Owing to the numerous abuses which have been brought to the notice of the Government, it is not of opinion that it should authorise its representatives in foreign countries to grant visas to refugees without reference to the central authority.

Government of the United States of America. — The American Government is not in a position, in view of the existing legislation, to take any measures in connection with the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission, apart from those summarised in the preceding report of the Office to the Assembly (document A.27.1931).

Greek Government. — The Greek Government is not in a position to modify the point of view exposed previously — that is to say, that it will not be able to express an opinion as to the possibility of applying in Greece the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission before the problem of the evacuation of the Armenian refugees on its territory has been definitely solved.

Hungarian Government. — Refugees wishing to enter Hungary must be in possession of a travelling certificate available for six months, bearing a return visa. Before entering Hungary, the refugees must make application to the Hungarian authorities for the necessary permission, giving the point at which they desire to cross the frontier, the place and the duration of their stay in Hungary, and their exact personal description. The travelling certificates delivered to refugees by the Hungarian Government are, as a general rule, valid for a period of one year.

In spite of the financial crisis which weighs heavily upon the country, the Hungarian Government has not expelled any refugees established in Hungary. On the contrary, everything is done to ensure for them all possible favours and advantages.

Government of British India. — The Secretary of State for India, in conformity with his reply with regard to the recommendations adopted by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission at its second session, does not propose to take any steps in connection with the recommendations in question, in view of the extremely limited number of Russian refugees in the country.

Lithuanian Government. — The recommendation of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission relating to the duration of Nansen passports corresponds to the Lithuanian legislative dispositions. As regards the other recommendations, the competent authorities do not see the possibility of putting them into practice for the time being.

Luxemburg Government. — The duration of the validity of Nansen passports is one year. It is customary to deliver return visas to refugees established in the Grand-Duchy for at least six months. The consuls in foreign countries have the right to deliver visas to refugees who satisfy the ordinary conditions required for entry into the Grand-Duchy.

With regard to the renewal of Nansen passports, the Government admits the principle of the competence of the State on whose territory the refugee may be. It delivers passports, therefore, only to refugees having the right to reside on its territory. Consuls are not authorised to renew or to prolong passports.

The Government is obliged to maintain, in principle, its right to expel or to refuse entry to refugees for reasons of public order. It deals, however, with the utmost leniency with refugees, and it supports the desire expressed by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission that the situation of refugees who have become nomadic in consequence of irregularities in their papers should be regulated.

Government of Nicaragua. — Although the problem in question is not of direct interest to the countries on the American continent, the Government of Nicaragua is prepared, for humanitarian reasons, to adhere to the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission as far as they may concern it and in a measure consistent with its national laws and vital interests.

Norwegian Government. — The Norwegian Government confirms the information contained in the preceding report of the Office to the Assembly (document A.27.1931), but points out, however, that identity certificates are now delivered regularly for a duration of one year.

Government of the Saar. — The Government of the Saar has no objections to make with regard to the principle of a formal convention for the purpose of establishing a status for refugees. As far as the Saar is concerned, refugees are assimilated to other foreigners, who, in principle, are not authorised to carry on any activities on the Territory if there is any possibility of their being replaced by unemployed nationals.

The Government of the Saar has no objection to raise with respect to the increase of the validity of Nansen certificates to two years, and points out that the period of validity of the national passports is two years. From the beginning, it has inserted the return clause in the Nansen certificates. The Government of the Saar has never applied the formality of the visa to holders of Nansen certificates, or to other foreigners. With regard to the renewal and to the prolongation of Nansen certificates, the Government is in agreement with the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission. As regards the necessity of refusing residential permission to refugees, measures would in no case be taken before assurance were obtained that the interested parties could enter another country.

Swiss Government. — Nansen stamps are utilised in Switzerland for the issue and the prolongation of all Nansen certificates.

The Swiss Government has already accepted the term “refugee” as laid down by the Arrangement of May 12th, 1926.

The validity of Nansen certificates is fixed definitely at one year. They bear a clause authorising the return to Switzerland during the period of their validity. Swiss consuls deliver transit visas to refugees on their own responsibility. They are authorised, moreover, to visa, without reference to the central administration, Nansen certificates of refugees domiciled in their region who wish to reside in Switzerland for a period not exceeding three months and who have not the intention to undertake any occupation in the country. As a general

rule, the Swiss authorities prolong Nansen certificates of refugees domiciled in Switzerland, but residing temporarily in a foreign country, even if the holders are still in a foreign country when the validity of their certificates expires.

With regard to expulsion and non-admittance, the refugees are treated on the same footing as other foreigners.

Czechoslovak Government. — The Czechoslovak authorities interpret the term “ refugee ” in the most liberal spirit.

Nansen certificates are delivered regularly for a term of one year, and, in very rare cases, for a shorter period. They bear the return clause. The Czechoslovak diplomatic missions are authorised to grant visas, without previous reference to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to refugees regarding whom nothing unfavourable is known, and if it is established that their stay in Czechoslovakia will be of short duration. The Government regrets its inability to consent to the competence of its diplomatic and consular missions being extended outside these limits. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is not in a position to authorise its diplomatic and consular missions in foreign countries to prolong the validity of Nansen certificates, in order to avoid the appearance of a kind of protection of refugees by one State on the territory of another State. The period of validity of one year of the passports and the return clause guarantee sufficiently the possibility of a temporary stay in a foreign country, even in a State which has not accepted the Nansen passport system.

The recommendation concerning expulsion and non-admittance has been communicated to the competent authorities with the request that they should not take measures of expulsion without considering beforehand the particular situation of the refugees.

Government of Venezuela. — The Government of Venezuela has taken note of the peremptory requirements of the League concerning Russian refugees, but regrets its inability to afford them priority to national problems.

Yugoslav Government. — The recommendations made with regard to the definition of the term “ refugee ” have been adopted entirely by the Government.

Nansen certificates are delivered for a period of three months and may, in case of need, be renewed. They cannot be delivered for a longer period, owing to the difficulties which their control would entail. The return clause is inserted in the Nansen certificates. The Yugoslav representatives in foreign countries are authorised to deliver transit visas. As regards permanent or temporary residence permits, authorisation must be obtained from the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

II. On September 25th, 1931, the Assembly adopted, *inter alia*, two resolutions relating respectively to the generalisation of the Nansen stamp and to the formation of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

These resolutions were communicated to the Governments on October 27th, 1931, by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who drew their attention to the necessity of increasing to the utmost the only revenue of the Office for its work of assistance — that is to say, the revenue accruing from the sale of the Nansen stamp.

The following is a summary of the replies received to that communication :

German Government. — The German Government has again examined the question of the introduction of the Nansen stamp system, in spite of the objections already raised in that connection by the German delegation to the Inter-Governmental Conference in May 1926. It is of opinion that, if the delivery of a Nansen passport was subordinated to the payment of the tax represented by the cost of the Nansen stamp, this would probably result in the refugees applying for German passports for foreigners, which are delivered to indigents, not only without their having to pay the tax in question, but also without cost to them. As the refugees are living in Germany, for the most part under unfavourable financial conditions, the revenue from the sale of the Nansen stamp, if it were introduced into the country, would be exceedingly small. With the desire to co-operate in the work in favour of refugees, and to contribute to the expenses thereof, the German Government has already declared its readiness to provide for the transport expenses of refugees leaving Germany, and it has effected payments in this connection, during the last years, totalling, at least, if they do not exceed, the sums which the sale of the Nansen stamp could reasonably have been expected to reach.

The German Government would be happy to see the creation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, but, in view of the economic situation of the country, it does not think that a private appeal would give results of any importance.

Australian Government. — In view of the very limited number of refugees in Australia, the Government is of opinion that the introduction of the Nansen stamp system into the country would not be justified.

Although the Government follows the work in favour of refugees with the greatest sympathy, the distance which separates Australia from the centre of activity has not permitted it to take an active part in this work. In these conditions, it would be difficult to create a national committee in Australia in favour of the Nansen Memorial Fund.

Austrian Government. — In spite of the provisional liquidation of the representation of the Office at Vienna, the Nansen stamp system is still applied in Austria.

In the event of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund being created, the Federal Government would not fail to favour their development, in gratitude for the kind efforts made by Dr. Nansen, in the past, for its countrymen in captivity.

Belgian Government. — The Nansen stamp system is applied to the widest possible extent in Belgium.

The creation in Belgium of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund is under consideration.

Colombian Government. — In view of the difficult economic situation of the country, the Colombian Government considers that it cannot contribute to the generalisation of the Nansen stamp, nor to the creation in Colombia of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

Government of the Free City of Danzig. — The Senate of the Free City of Danzig points out that the question of the introduction of the Nansen stamp system and of the formation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund could not be realised in any practical manner, owing to the extremely small number of persons applying to the authorities for Nansen passports and to the fact that the applicants are all persons of small means.

Egyptian Government. — As the Egyptian Government does not issue Nansen certificates, it cannot contemplate the general adoption of the Nansen stamp.

As regards the formation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, the Egyptian Government regrets its inability to give effect to this recommendation at the moment and would prefer that this task should be entrusted to the Russian colony in Egypt whose members will be officially invited to collect funds for this purpose.

Spanish Government. — The Spanish Government will take into account the recommendations of the Assembly with regard to the introduction of the Nansen stamp and to the constitution of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

Government of the United States of America. — The Government of the United States is not in a position to take any action in the direction of a fuller application of the Nansen stamp system, nor to encourage or facilitate the creation in the United States of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund. However, should such a committee be established in that country through private initiative, the American Government would view its activities with entire sympathy and approval.

Hungarian Government. — The introduction of the Nansen stamp in Hungary would be inopportune at the present time, as the great majority of refugees are not in a position to pay the tax of five gold francs. As a matter of fact, the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior, in view of the very precarious material circumstances of the refugees, does not make any charge — beyond that of the cost of the forms — for their identity cards.

Government of British India. — Owing to the small number of refugees with which the Government of India is required to deal, it does not consider it necessary to introduce the Nansen stamp, or to create national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

Latvian Government. — The Latvian Government regrets its inability to impose any further charges on refugees residing in Latvia, and is obliged to maintain its negative attitude in regard to the introduction of the Nansen stamp system in the country, for reasons which it has already explained.

The Government is of opinion, besides, that the present is not a favourable time for the creation in Latvia of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund. In any case, it has not been informed yet of any such intention, and it is unlikely that it will be possible to contemplate the setting up of such a committee in Latvia in the near future.

Lithuanian Government. — In view of the particular situation of the country, the Lithuania authorities hardly see the possibility of complying with the recommendations in question for the moment. Nansen certificates, however, are delivered in Lithuania for a period of one year, in conformity with the recommendation of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission.

Luxemburg Government. — The Grand-Ducal Government is applying the Nansen stamp system to the fullest possible extent, even in the case of the extension of the validity of passports. It will examine the possibility of setting up in the Grand-Duchy a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, although it does not underrate the difficulty of creating such a committee at a time when there are so many calls for assistance in Luxemburg itself.

Norwegian Government. — The Nansen stamp system has already been put into full application in Norway, as stated in the preceding report of the Office to the Assembly (document A.27.1931).

As regards the Nansen Memorial Fund, the Government refers to the correspondence exchanged in this connection with the President of the Governing Body regarding the Norwegian contribution to this Fund.

Portuguese Government. — As there have never been any refugees in Portugal, the Portuguese Government is of opinion that there is no need to encourage, or facilitate, the creation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, or to put the Nansen stamp system into application.

Government of the Saar. — In principle, all refugees, except those who are indigent, who apply for an identity card or for a residence permit are required to purchase a Nansen stamp.

On the other hand, the Government of the Saar is quite ready to afford its moral support to the creation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, the initiative for such a step being left of course to spontaneous private action which has not yet revealed itself.

Swedish Government. — A national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund has been organised in Sweden. This committee recently made an appeal to the public, signed by a large number of distinguished persons, including Prince Carl of Sweden, M. Ekman, the Prime Minister, and Baron Ramel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Yugoslav Government. — The Nansen stamp system will continue to be applied in the manner indicated previously.

As regards the creation in Yugoslavia of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, the Royal Government considers that the present circumstances do not warrant it.

Appendix II.

NANSEN MEMORIAL FUND.

FIRST LIST OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED UP TO JUNE 30TH, 1932.

	Swiss Francs
Dr. A Nansen, Administrator of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen's Fund, via the Norwegian Government	342,500.—
Danish Committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, via Count Moltke ¹ . . .	115,203.85
Lord Mayor's Fund (to be used for settlement of Armenian refugees in Syria) (£3,000) ²	74,790.—
His Excellency M. Venizelos (£50).	1,260.50
Mme. Schindler Escher, Zurich.	1,000.—
"Swiss Deaconess" (in order to promote the brotherhood of people). . . .	700.—
M. Fritz Wartenweiler, Frauenfeld.	300.—
University of Durham (£10).	250.70
University Jagellone, Cracow.	142.80
University of Bologna (500 lire).	133.90
His Excellency M. N. Kawashina, Delegate Minister of Japan, Athens. . . .	133.50
M. W. J. W. van Eysinga, Leiden, Holland (50 florins).	103.90
Madame la Marquise A. de Sostegno.	100.—
<i>Brisbane Courier</i> , Brisbane (five guineas)	130.40
Messrs. James Gardiner, Glasgow (£3).	74.30
Christian Albrecht University, Kiel (50 RM.).	57.50
Miss Elisabeth E. Reed, New York (\$10.25).	52.80
Dr. Stelle Churchill, London (two guineas).	52.60
H. N. Gladstone, Esq., Chester (two guineas)	52.30
St. Nicolas School, Sutton Coldfield (£2).	49.40
Sir Oliver Lodge, Salisbury (one guinea).	26.45
Sir John Barren, Leeds (one guinea).	26.35
Miss Helen Sturge, Bristol.	26.30
Nordiska Foereningsbanken, Helsingfors (200 Finnish marks).	25.90
Miss A. S. Cheyney (\$5)	25.60
Dame Edith Lyttleton, London (£1).	25.20
Lloyds and National Provincial Foreign Bank, Ltd., Threadneedle St., London (£1).	25.15
Mrs. Evelyn S. Williams, Falmouth (£1).	24.90
L. J. Krige, Pretoria (£1).	24.80
The Rev. S. Uduy, Norfolk (one guinea) ³	20.20
M. Jarvis, Coulsdon, Surrey (£1)	17.—
M. W. Hunt, Barnstable (£1).	17.—
Professor Georges Smets, Brussels (100 Belgian francs).	14.30
Professor Winifred C. Cullie, London (half-guinea).	13.20
Miss G. M. Bedford, Middlesbrough (half-guinea)	13.05
Sir Francis Ackland, Exeter (10/-)	12.50
Professor Rudolf Staehelin, Basle	10.—
Miss Emily J. Balch, Geneva.	10.—
M. Selevko, Paris (25 French francs).	5.—
Total	537,451.35

¹ Out of which 2,641.20 francs are to be used in favour of Armenian refugees.

² To be used in favour of Armenian refugees.

³ To be used in favour of Assyro-Chaldean refugees.

Appendix III.

ADVANCES GRANTED TO ORGANISATIONS.

Organisations	Swiss Francs	Object
Fédération gén. des Invalides de Guerre russes, Paris.	4,000.—	Hospital expenses for 30 invalids during three months.
Société des Amis des Etudiants juifs, Paris.	726.90	Cost of printing the theses, and of the final examinations of 4 students.
Société de Secours aux enfants, Nice.	750.—	Establishment of a kindergarten.
Red Cross (old organisation), Paris	12,000.—	Hospital expenses for 36 patients during six months.
Artels in Poland	30,000.—	Obtainment of permanent work for 162 to 209 men.
Officiers mutilés de guerre russes en France	3,670.—	For distribution among the most needy of an organisation of 85 members.
Comité de Patronage universitaire.	6,000.—	Fees for 46 students during four and a half months to enable them to qualify for scholarships.
Travailleurs chrétiens :		
Belfort	600.—	Relief for 60 unemployed.
Besangon	400.—	Small subventions to unemployed.
Lyon.	1,000.—	Relief for unemployed.
Grenoble	600.—	Purchase of food for 50 children of unemployed for six weeks.
Société de Patronage des Enfants russes, Paris.	600.—	Assistance to indigent children.
Union des Invalides de Guerre russes, Germany	5,000.—	Hospital expenses for 19 invalids during six months.
Comité des Dames, Greece.	3,000.—	To provide food, clothing and medical assistance for indigent Russian children.
Hôpital de Villejuif, Paris	10,000.—	Contribution towards surgery in which 500 patients are operated on yearly.
Mennonite Committee	25,000.—	Evacuation of 373 refugees from China.
Lutheran World Convention	50,000.—	Evacuation of 393 refugees from China.
General Workshop in Warsaw	1,500.—	Creation of a workshop, purchase of necessary fixtures, etc., to enable women, children and the aged incapable of physical work to earn their living.
Fédération des Invalides mutilés de Guerre russes en France	5,000.—	Hospital expenses for 30 invalids during three months.
Union des anciens Combattants russes en France.	10,000.—	For the most urgent needs of the unemployed of an organisation of 13,000 members.
<i>Carried forward</i>	<u>169,846.90</u>	

Organisations	Swiss Francs	Object
<i>Brought forward.</i>	169,846.90	
Ukrainian organisations	10,000.—	8,000 francs assistance for Ukrainian political refugees in Roumania.
		1,000 francs subvention for the co-operative restaurants of the Organisation in France.
		1,000 francs working expenses of a farm in France (30 persons).
Total of advances.	179,846.90	

OUTRIGHT GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS.

Organisations	Swiss Francs	Object
Comité de Patronage universitaire, Paris.	12,000.—	To pay school fees for 75 students to enable them to qualify for scholarships.
Comité des Villes et Zemstvos.	20,000.—	For scholarships, assistance to children of unemployed, food, medical care, etc., for 1,650 boys and girls.
Comité russe en Finlande.	3,000.—	For the maintenance of services rendered previously by the representative of the Office in Finland, essential to the welfare of the Russian refugees in Finland.
Union de la Colonie russe en Finlande	1,000.—	Assistance for the most needy refugees.
Stralkovo Camp (Poland).	1,000.—	Maintenance of 42 persons during six and a half months.
Camp in Persia	1,000.—	Distribution to unemployed refugees of food and fuel — payment of rents and medical assistance.
Asyle Lochovska (Poland)	4,320.—	Maintenance of 64 persons during four months.
Internat de Jeunes Filles (Yugoslavia)	800.—	For rent during three months of institution accommodating 25 girls.
Creation of a bed in the Hospital at Sofia	1,400.—	Cost of one bed for one year.
Asyle Aurinko (Finland)	3,070.—	Housing, care and feeding of 10 aged persons during one year.
Institutions at Narva (£105).	2,634.45	Grant for purchase of school house for 150 pupils.
Institutions at Narva (£400).	10,000.—	To cover general expenses from September 1st, 1931, to June 30th, 1932, of institutions attending to 395 children.
Ecole réale at Terioki (£250).	6,212.50	Grant to school consisting of 85 pupils.
<i>Carried forward.</i>	66,436.95	

Organisations	Swiss francs	Object
<i>Brought forward</i> . . .	66,436.95	
Home at Montmorency (£400). . . .	9,940.—	Establishment of technical classes, medical assistance, holiday camps, etc., for 423 pupils.
Association des Invalides mutilés de Guerre russes en France (£500). . .	12,465.—	Housing, care and feeding of 30 patients during seven and a half months.
Organisation antituberculeuse (£500). .	12,124.55	Housing, care and feeding of 33 patients during six months.
Société des Dames Terbrotsasser. . .	1,250.—	Grant to orphanage of 200 Armenian orphans.
Union des Dames arméniennes	1,562.50	Assistance for consumptive Armenian refugees.
Union générale arménienne de Bien-faisance	5,000.—	Development of the Armenian village Havrezk (Mossul).
Union générale arménienne de Bien-faisance.	5,000.—	Assistance for Armenian children in Greece, provision of food, clothing and medicine.
Red Cross (old organisation).	18,240.—	Housing of 20 sick refugees during six months; for expenses during six months of a dispensary having attended to 7,500 sick, of which 200 placed in hospital, during that period.
Organisations d'Invalides en Bulgarie .	12,000.—	Assistance to unemployed and sick members of the Organisations: 12,000 meals served, 100 tons of coal distributed, four months' rent of 20 families paid, small grants;
Comité central des Réfugiés arméniens	2,100.—	Assistance to about 90 Armenian refugees (food, medicine, rent, travelling expenses, etc.).
Total outright grants	146,019.—	

Appendix IV.

EXTRACT FROM A REPORT BY COLONEL-DOCTOR JUDE, CHIEF OF THE SANITARY SERVICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT FOR SYRIA, M. BURNIER, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NANSEN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR REFUGEES, AND MAJOR-DOCTOR LUBET, ON THE ARMENIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM IN SYRIA.

The welcome extended to the Armenian refugees by the native population in Syria in the early days was, as may readily be understood, of a somewhat reserved nature. In spite of the state of affairs created by the influx of more than 100,000 of those refugees and of the difficulties and suffering which it brought about, the consequences resulting from the advent of this foreign labour have been excellent and have opened up the way to a marked improvement in the economic development of the country.

During the first years following the immigration of these Christian populations, the mandatory Power was concerned especially with the transitory measures required to aid and to assist the refugees, morally and materially, but had later to contemplate the execution of a form of settlement to enable the new-comers definitely to organise their existence. To this end, the mandatory Power solicited the collaboration of the High Commission of the League of Nations, which sent a representative to Syria for the purpose.

The chief work was based on two principles :

(a) The refugees were distributed according to their different capacities — the urban artisans in the towns and the farmers and agricultural workers in the country ;

(b) The help given to them was no longer to be considered in the light of charity. All those who received assistance were informed that, within stipulated periods, they would be required to reimburse the advances granted to them to facilitate their settlement.

It is worthy of note that these Armenian refugees have given splendid proof of their traditional qualities of work and economy, which are the pride of their race, and, as will be seen later on, if certain new quarters were created for them, others have been built up rapidly thanks to their personal efforts and tenacity.

URBAN SETTLEMENTS.

At first, all these unfortunate people were camped in tents lent for that purpose by the French Military Administration, care being taken to group them together as far as possible by families. But from the sanitary, social and humane points of view, something better had to be considered and it was decided to construct new urban quarters at Beyrouth. This was done in the following manner :

At Beyrouth. — The Central Relief Committee acquired at Achrafieh — a hill overlooking the town on the north-east — a large piece of land measuring 50,000 square metres, situated along the banks of the river Nehr Beirut at a hundred metres above the level of the river and 400 metres from its mouth. The site, with its wide streets, is well aerated and swept by the sea winds. The ground itself is permeable and slightly inclined, and well exposed to the sun. By private purchase, twenty pavilions were built — giving shelter to sixty families. Each of these two-storey buildings, constructed entirely in reinforced concrete, comprised eight apartments of two rooms each, with independent kitchens and water-closets. They were whitewashed inside and outside to protect them from the heat. Town water is generously distributed to allow for the regular evacuation of all soiled waters, which are drained into a large reservoir at the foot of the hill, outside the settlement. Each pavilion is surrounded by a garden.

Near this first quarter, at Djébaile, and under similar healthy conditions, a camping-ground has been utilised for the creation of a new settlement, but, as the high cost of the first pavilions erected did not permit of an expenditure disproportionate to resources, the future tenants, to whom the cost of the land and the necessary building materials was advanced, built their respective pavilions themselves.

As the uniformity of the buildings of the first quarter created too much the impression of workmen's dwellings, each new tenant, although obliged to follow a general plan of construction, was given the liberty to adapt the façade and the interior arrangements to his own taste. As a general rule, all these houses have been built in reinforced concrete, strongly constructed, and have several rooms. They are erected in such a manner as to allow for the eventual addition of a first floor. The wide, well-ventilated streets, the pavements, the succession of houses of different architecture and variegated tints of the new town afford a pleasant surprise to all who visit it.

Thanks to these two operations, it has been possible to destroy 500 huts in the old camp.

Whilst this work was proceeding, certain groups of Armenians, such as the refugees from Marache and Sid, formed private mutual help societies, who pooled their ready money and the funds furnished by certain loans. They bought land in the valley of the river Nehr Beirut, on the Tripoli-Beyrouth road, and established two new quarters thereon.

These areas, which were formerly completely deserted territory, are now, thanks to the drainage work carried out and to the filling-in of the marshes, the sites of an ever-increasing number of settlements which, from a sanitary point of view, are as healthy as the town itself.

The type of construction adopted for the most part at the beginning was the " bagdadi " type, particularly in favour in Anatolia in view of its low cost-price and proven solidity, capable of resisting indefinitely all atmospheric changes and the eventual action of earthquakes. The framework is formed by two vertical walls 10 cm. distant one from the other. These walls are made of joists of timber bound together by transversal laths at certain intervals, and are covered, inside and outside, with a thick coating of greased lime. A layer of air circulates freely between the two walls thus formed.

Progressively, as the cost of building material diminished considerably, these little houses made way for more important constructions of varied styles of architecture, built of moulded cement or of stone. Each house, or group of houses, comprises its own sanitary conveniences consisting of independent aseptic pits. Town water has been laid on and will shortly be available for general distribution. Other similar lots are being laid out. An important centre is therefore growing up and will, eventually, form a single settlement of strongly built, respectable dwellings corresponding to the requirements of the country as far as salubrity and comfort are concerned.

At Aleppo. — To do away with the same distress as that experienced by the Armenian refugees at Beyrouth, similar active sympathy has enabled the three camps to be improved and rendered healthy. As these camps are situated on the outskirts of the town, it has not been

possible to displace them. If, in the first camp — established in haste to respond to urgent needs — there is still scope for improvement, the other two have been completely transformed by the erection of houses built entirely of stone, comfortably arranged and comprising sanitary conveniences and town water. The town itself, which now has spacious streets, gives a certain impression of ease ; it has its own butcher and baker, shops of all descriptions and its schools and churches.

At Damascus. — Identical, successive transformations have been effected with the same zeal and the same desire to eradicate misery.

At Alexandretta. — Here the Armenian refugees were living under the worst possible conditions, requiring constant efforts for the betterment of their lot. In the early days, 1,350 families, decimated by malaria, were camped on the outskirts of the town. Thanks to the efforts exerted, the marshes have been progressively drained and filled in, doing away with the primary cause of the unhealthy state of the town. The subsequent construction of houses in concrete, brick, and even stone, enabled the refugees then to create homes for themselves under sufficiently comfortable conditions.

In the Alaouites region, there was no cause for anxiety. Here, 546 families were scattered over an agricultural area, where they were welcomed, and may be regarded as definitely settled.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS.

The work, however, of establishing the refugees once and for all could only be completed by providing for the settlement of the agricultural refugees.

A first trial was made in 1925 by the settlement of twenty families on an estate, near the town of Tyre, belonging to the Lebanon Government. These agricultural families were chosen without distinction of origin, and the rivalry between them finally caused them to break their contracts. Benefiting by that lesson, efforts were then made, not only to group together the inhabitants of the same village or region, but also to reconstitute the organisations of the clans with their Councils of Elders, who supervise the whole life of the village, take decisions with regard to cultivation, the distribution of crops, etc.

The conditions which governed the establishment of the agricultural colonies were as follows :

(1) *Historical and Geographical*: It was considered essential to establish new settlements in contact with, or in proximity to, existing Armenian groups, or, failing that, close to Christian populations such as Kurds and Tcherkess — security being the principal factor and the natural foundation of economic development.

(2) *Salubrity*: Healthy regions only would be chosen.

(3) *Economic*: The refugees would be settled in such a manner as would enable them rapidly to provide for themselves and to reimburse in due course, with as short a delay as possible, the grants received, thus permitting them to become the owners of their lands and houses.

(4) *Social*: Individual refugees would be grouped together according to their origin — *i.e.*, from the plains or mountains — and to their aptitudes for the work to be undertaken by them.

A hire-purchase system was introduced, which received legal value by means of an order promulgated by the High Commissioner. The execution of this programme has, however, met with considerable obstacles owing to the difficulty of finding suitable estates. Agricultural colonies were established in the Sandjak of Alexandretta, especially in 1927, by means of outright purchases of the necessary property.

To these purely agricultural colonies must be added the centre of Kirik-Khan, which is half-agricultural, half-urban. Here the men are artisans and the women and children occupy themselves with the cultivation of small plots of land.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES AND LAYING-OUT OF LAND.

The predominant sickness in Syria being malaria, care has had to be taken to avoid the neighbourhood of marshy regions. As far as it was feasible, the inhabitants of the villages were urged to plant around their houses trees bearing such fruits as lemons, oranges, medlars, cherries, quinces, figs, mulberries, peaches, plums, etc.

The buildings themselves are very simple, with one floor only, but they are made of excellent material : dried brick, concrete and stone, with wood or iron girders, according to the region in which they are constructed. The stables and sheds have been erected close to the living-houses but are not contiguous to them. A sufficient number of protected wells have been sunk. The stock, etc., placed at the disposal of each family of farmers (who received, in principle, a yoke of oxen and seeds for a period of one year) sufficed for the initial agricultural and exploitation requirements of the farm ; this stock, etc., has rapidly increased thanks to the patience of the refugees and to their spirit of economy.

In spite of two indifferent seasons and the decrease in the selling-prices, the refugees, as a rule, have still been able to repay the instalments on their loans.

Parallel with these material preoccupations, every effort has been made to educate and to care for this new population with scrupulous and due respect for their religious traditions.

