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## A Summary of Its Work by The Friends of Soviet Russia. [December 1921]

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During the first few months of our work, the main emphasis was laid on the organization of permanent local Conferences in the cities of the United States and Canada, who arrange the holding of meetings at which appeals are made for funds, as well as the circulation of subscription lists for the collection of money from individuals. These methods were effective and yielded \$250,000 by the end of November [1921].

It has been felt desirable to put forth additional effort in new fields of money-raising, and stress is now being laid on the necessity of keeping the friends of the working-class revolution in Russia fully informed as to the course of the Famine Work and the needs that yet remain unfilled, in order to stimulate them to further efforts in the gathering of needed funds. With this object in view, the Friends of Soviet Russia have already published three issues of a semi-monthly *Bulletin*, which is distributed free to all active workers in the field and to all contributors to the collections whose names and addresses are known. In addition, a series of pamphlets describing and picturing famine conditions is about to be issued, which will be sold at a low price; these pamphlets will not only encourage their readers to make further donations to Famine Relief, but the sale of them will also yield a small profit which will be devoted entirely to the same purpose. Two of these pamphlets have already come from the press: *The Russian Famine in Pictures* (richly illustrated) and *Famine in Russia and Capitalism Abroad* (descriptions of famine conditions and the reactions they call forth in capitalist governments of foreign countries). The report of the Russian Famine Commission of the Near

East Relief has so impressed the Executive Committee of the Friends of Soviet Russia that it has purchased a large number of copies from *The Nation*, which is printing the pamphlet, and intends to sell it together with its own literature, and with the same purpose.

In addition to the sale of literature, interest in the Russian famine conditions will also be kept awake by means of stereopticon lectures and moving picture exhibitions (the latter without lectures). These will depend for their profit on the gate receipts, as collections will be limited, in the main, to the larger mass-meetings, addressed, as heretofore, by prominent speakers, who will continue traveling from city to city, talking to gatherings that are being efficiently organized by the Local Conferences and the special organizers assigned to the task. One of our speakers, William Z. Foster, after completing a very successful lecture tour through the Middle West, is now moving eastward, speaking at Pittsburgh, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, late in December, and will address a number of meetings in New York in January. The sale of Foster's book *The Russian Revolution* has been an important factor in the raising of money at his meetings, as well as the auctioning of 1000-ruble Soviet notes, autographed by Foster, which have brought all the way from \$5 to \$100 a piece.

The National Office of the Friends of Soviet Russia is at 201 West 13th Street; the Treasurer is Jacob W. Hartmann, who is also Editor of *Soviet Russia*. There is every indication that the total amount collected will be considerably more than \$300,000 by December 31, 1921.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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