

RELIEF DELIVERIES AND
RELIEF LOANS

1919-1923



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PREFACE

THIS brief study on relief after the last war is one of a series devoted to a consideration of the lessons that may be learnt from past experience and that may prove of value whenever, now or later, policies for the postwar world are formulated.

It may seem ungracious to subject the great humanitarian effort that was undertaken after the 1918 Armistice to this form of analysis. But progress can only be achieved if we are ready to learn from the facts of the past—both from the successes and the limitations to successful achievement, and from the difficulties foreseen and unforeseen that arose and may arise again. If this report furnishes any evidence of value, that is a proof that the benefits of the efforts made after the last war are not exhausted.

When reviewing what was achieved in these years, it is well to remember that international relief on a scale in any way comparable to what was required had never been previously undertaken. There was no past experience to serve as a guide save that of the Commission for Relief in Belgium during the war, which in fact proved to be of great value.

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and Transit Department*

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