

United Church Sends Stream Of Clothing To Refugees

From the basement of an old church on Dundas St., at Ossington Ave., Toronto, there has flowed for the last year and a half a stream of clothing which, according to letters from overseas, has kept thousands of homeless and destitute people alive.

To Korea, Germany, Switzerland, Lebanon and other countries where the 15,000,000 refugees of both cold and hot war have gathered, more than \$550,000 worth of used garments, and much new clothing, have been sent by volunteer workers. This week, 20 tons more will be en route to Pusan, for distribution by official agencies of the United Nations, or workers in co-operation with the latter.

The sorting and packing centre in old Wesley Church is the focal point of the work of the United Church Committee on Overseas Relief, headed by Rev. Dr. W. Harold Young as a sideline of his regular post of secretary of the church's board on colleges and secondary schools. His able henchman and volunteer director of the actual work is C. L. Young, a retired Glen Rd. businessman. But both say the major task is that of the volunteer women sorters, menders and packers.

From United Church groups of the three presbyteries in Toronto come these daily workers, to labor a half day or more, on a carefully organized plan which has eight to twelve women on duty every day — plus many from young people's groups at night. Into the church basement pour bundles, crates and boxes from churches all over Canada; out go the waterproofed bales to their eventual destination.

The work began when relief agencies abroad began calling for help — usable clothing of any kind, shoes, blankets, infants' wear. The church sent out its call to its members, and the flood started pouring into the centre. As bales arrive, the contents are sorted into bins around the walls of a big room of the dingy basement, after passing across examining tables and are mothproofed or mended — though any mending is supposed to be done at the point of origin. From the bins, labelled "Men's Winter" or "Women's Summer" and so on, bundles are made up on trucks.

These truckloads then go to a packing area, actually part of a hallway, where there is a borrowed baling machine, loaned by the Canadian Friends' Service Committee. Some idea of the amount of clothing handled can be gained from these figures: The 20 tons for Korea was composed of 385 bales, in each of which an average of about 200 adult's garments were compressed. The bales are then wrapped in waterproof paper and finally sewn into burlap outer wrappings. These are stencilled with shipment code number, allotted by the United Nations relief organization. The volume of clothing handled reached 590 tons in the last year.

From every church or church organization sending in bundles comes a cash contribution of 10 cents a pound to help cover freight and wrapping material cost. And much of the donated material is new, especially infants' clothing, which goes out in complete layettes of garments, bedding, soap and powder. In addition, the church also has forwarded more than \$50,000 in cash for specific relief purposes, all of the funds being handled by the accredited agencies.

From letters from UN officials, agency workers and even from individual recipients of the relief clothing the church and its volunteers receive rewards of thanks. Typical is the letter from Choh Vhang Soon, co-director of a UN depot in Pusan, Korea, who said that the last shipment to that centre had meant the difference between life and death for thousands of home-

Markham Doctor Gets Ten Years

Dr. Earl Clouse, 59, of Box Grove, was convicted of manslaughter in the death of a girl who died as the result of an operation carried out in the doctor's Toronto offices.

Evidence showed that at the time the operation was performed, the girl was not pregnant.

Evidence submitted during the trial showed that after performing the operation in which Dr. Clouse injured the girl, he sent her home. Other doctors giving testimony for the Crown stated that he should have sent her to hospital.

Unless the patient received attention within 24 hours, she would move into a condition in which there was a high mortality rate, one doctor testified.

In the only air combat fought by the RCAF in the North American theatre of war, a Japanese fighter was destroyed at Kiska on September 25, 1942. During the first RCAF sorties over the Aleutians, Squadron Leader K. A. Boomer, commanding No. 111 squadron destroyed a Japanese "Zero".

Work Proceeding To Prepare Whitchurch Community Centre

"Many hands make light work" proved true last week when two "bees" were held at the Community Centre grounds at Van-dorf to clear fallen limbs from the willow grove on the property and to remove two large limbs which dangerously overhung the highway.

Two modern power chain saws loaned for the occasion by M. G. Slater and Michael van Nostrand, and a circular saw and tractor provided by Stuart Burnett and S. Agnoluzzi made short work of the heavy trees. These had to be felled onto the roadway under the supervision of the Bell Telephone Company workmen, county road employees and the police. Motor traffic on the road was held up for about half an hour and telephone service cut for some time. Now that the two heavy limbs have been removed, there will be no risk of them crashing down on cars in some high wind or ice storm.

The wood from the trees was hauled to the township Community Hall for use in the furnace.

Work on the pond on the property has been a headache for members of the Community Centre Board. The bulldozer operator engaged to excavate the pond started the work, then pulled off the job waiting for dry weather. Dry weather came, and went, without the work being completed.

The first non-stop trans-Canada flight took place in January, 1949. A North Star aircraft from the Experimental and Proving Establishment at Rockcliffe Air Station flew from Vancouver to Halifax. Average speed for the 2,735 mile flight was 329 m.p.h. and it took 8 hours and 32 minutes.



Bales, rolled in waterproof paper under their burlap coverings, await shipment to Korea from the United Church centre in old Wesley

Church at Ossington Ave. and Dundas St. West. The clothing, gifts from the church's congregations all over Canada, is distributed to refugees.

Above shipment represents 20 tons of 385 bales. Voluntary supervisor C. L. Young chats with Mrs. Florence as she checks shipment.



To protect the clothing, which is sent in addition to \$50,000 in cash raised by the United Church, workers spray

with mothproofing liquid. Letters report arrival of shipments in excellent condition, say thousands owe lives to such help.



Mrs. A. D. Nicholson and Miss A. Fierheller, volunteer workers, mend some of the

socks, which are cleaned and mothproofed before packing. Women volunteer packers,

who handled 501 tons last year, come from churches of Toronto presbyteries.



Wilbert Glanville uses a paper baler to pack clothing which women sort into piles which go to Korea, France,

Germany and wherever refugees are gathered. Baler jams about 200 garments into each bundle.

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less, cold and hungry men, women and children.

"It is something that must be done, and it is a Christian task, a responsibility that our faith should accept," said Dr. Young. "In Germany alone there are 10,000,000

refugees from behind the Iron Curtain. What has democracy to offer them when they have abandoned tyranny for democracy?

The church is trying to show that democracy is a living, breathing vibrant thing, that it means sharing what we have with those who need."

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