



**AMERICA
WE THANK YOU**
An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

**COLORADO
FACT
SHEET**

Colorado was a staunch supporter of Near East Relief (NER), the American-led campaign that quickly sparked an international response with its unprecedented humanitarian endeavor, mobilizing all segments of American citizenry including elected officials, celebrities and laypersons alike, to help rescue victims of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey from 1915-1930.

Colorado Newspapers Publish Horrors of Armenian Genocide and Appeals for Aid



GOVERNOR O. H. SHOUP of Colorado, State Chairman for Near East Relief, adopts the first orphan of our new year, for \$180. With him are Miss Elsie Truran, returned Near East Relief worker, and Dr. S. G. Dorey, Field Secretary in Colorado.

- During 1915-1916 Colorado newspapers and journals printed the stories of horror and tragedy befalling the Armenian victims, which were flooding the American press.
- On August 3, 1915, *The Denver Post* ran a story on its front page, the headline of which reads, “9,000 ARMENIAN BABES AND MOTHERS KILLED BY TURKS ON TIGRIS.”
- The January 2, 1916 issue of *The Denver Post* informed its readers about a most gruesome and harrowing event befalling American educators overseas, the headline of which reads, “TURKS TORTURE AMERICAN EDUCATORS BY PULLING HAIR OUT WITH PINNERS.”
- By 1917, Colorado newspapers, while still providing coverage on the Armenian massacres were also running messages of urgent appeal and action for humanitarian assistance and intervention overseas.
- On January 10, 1919 *The Routt County Republican* ran the headline, “Help The Armenians.”
- Announcing the January 12 relief drive the communication pleaded, “Their lives absolutely

depend upon outside help and there is no other country situated so it can help this unfortunate people, but the United States.”

- The appeal’s final line, speaking to Colorado’s designated quota exclaimed, “Colorado will not let 4,000 little children starve by refusing to do her part.”

Colorado General Assembly Applauds Near East Relief

- During a 1921 Joint Session of the Colorado General Assembly, the Senate and the House unanimously passed a resolution commending the work of the Near East Relief efforts nationally, while specifically acknowledging the work of the Colorado State Committee for Near East Relief “in caring for Armenian and Syrian children.”
- The resolution called for action to “take such steps as may be necessary to safeguard the future of these Christian Armenians who have kept faith in spite of every species of torture and who suffered most and lost a larger percentage of their man power than any of the allies in the World War.”



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Colorado Governor Appointed Colorado State Chairman for Near East Relief

- Colorado's 22nd Governor (1919-1923) Oliver Henry Nelson Shoup presided as Colorado's State Chairman for Near East Relief.
- The Near East Relief's official publication, *The New Near East* boasted a monthly readership of over 100,000 persons a month.
- Its June 1921 issue chronicled the Governor's sponsorship of \$180 to feed, clothe, house and educate an Armenian orphan for a full year by including a photograph of the Governor handing the check to Colorado Near East Relief field worker Dr. S. G. Dorey.

Colorado Federation of Labor Endorses Near East Relief

- Upon Near East Relief's incorporation by Congress in 1916, an Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) was named to rally support for relief from American organized labor unions.
- The IAB, in its communication to federal and state unions expressed, "we heartily commend the humanitarian work the Near East Relief is doing for the needy orphans and widows and for the starving refugees in the Near East."
- Colorado's Federation of Labor officially endorsed the activities of Near East Relief.

Colorado Educational Association Publicizes "Armenia Today" Appeal

- The September 1921 issue of "The Colorado School Journal," the official publication of the Colorado Educational Association, included an update on the conditions in Armenia, as provided by Near East Relief workers entitled, "Armenia Today."
- Warning its readership that "conditions in Armenia today are worse than they have been at any times since the armistice" noting that "four hundred thousand refugees are now suffering even unto death," an urgent appeal recognizing the vital importance of "American philanthropy" was made.
- The communication's final line was as follows: "The entire United States has been called upon for this service."

Colorado Citizens Donate Generously to Near East Relief Armenian Rescue

- The Colorado chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution assisted with raising funds and organizing clothing drives for Near East Relief's efforts overseas.
- Coloradans donated generously to Near East Relief's annual Bundle Day drives wherein warm winter clothing and shoes were donated to protect the refugees against the harsh winters.
- Mr. Date, secretary of the Denver Dry Goods Company, located at California Street in Denver, Colorado (which in the 1920's was famed for being the largest store in the Central West with 1,200 employees) penned a letter to every clothing, shoe, dry goods and ladies' furnishings dealer in Colorado and Wyoming to thoroughly review their inventory and donate generously what they could to Near East Relief.



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- Robert Dillon, a World War veteran, on his deathbed in Denver, Colorado, lamented the sufferings of the orphan children in the Near East. Aware that his battle with tuberculosis would cost him his life, Mr. Dillon directed \$57.50 from his life insurance policy and \$100 from disability compensations to the Near East Relief, and ensured the care and rehabilitation of an orphan for two full years through his kindness and generosity.
- Mrs. Jennie L. Liverman, a music teacher living and working in Denver, Colorado organized three piano recitals by her pupils in 1923, and donated the proceeds from admission fees to Near East Relief. The financial success of these concerts led Mrs. Liverman to encourage similar benefit concerts throughout Denver.

Colorado, We Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of the Near East Relief, its participating organizations and entities, the U.S. Government and State Governments, and especially the American people at large, over 1,000,000 refugees and 132,000 orphans of the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities were rescued, fed, clothed, and educated. We have survived, thrived, and prospered from the horrors of Genocide at the hands of Ottoman Turkey.

For your unwavering support and unprecedented generosity in donating to Near East Relief's humanitarian efforts, Colorado, We Thank You!



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