

Geneva, September 3rd, 1927.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS**FIFTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT
OF THE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMISSION**

Athens, August 25th, 1927.

FINANCIAL SITUATION.**A. SITUATION ON JUNE 30th, 1927.**

The financial situation on June 30th, 1927, was as follows:

<i>Liabilities:</i>	£	s.	d.
Capital (proceeds of the Loan)	9,970,016	6	9
Bonds deposited by refugees as security for their debts	31,752	0	0
Receipts	245,615	11	6
Commitments	144,289	10	0
Suspense Account	219,619	13	0
Various <i>per contra</i> accounts	352,565	8	9
	£10,963,858	10	0
<i>Assets:</i>			
Sums available	1,329,970	18	10
Bonds deposited	31,752	0	0
Recoverable advances	80,424	11	5
Expenditure:	£	s.	d.
Agricultural Settlement	7,911,022	10	7
Urban Settlement	1,051,174	1	9
Central Administration:			
Furniture and fittings	4,144	14	1
General Expenditure	109,513	2	1
	9,075,854	8	6
Sum applied to redemption of the Loan	93,291	2	6
Various <i>per contra</i> accounts	352,565	8	9
	£10,963,858	10	0

The following notes may facilitate the reading of this balance sheet:

LIABILITIES.

<i>Receipts.</i> This heading includes:	£	s.	d.
Interest	202,330	8	8
Forfeited deposits	6,791	15	3
Various receipts	5,607	16	1
Commission's share in payments by refugees	30,885	11	6
	£245,615	11	6
<i>Commitments.</i>			
Share of the International Financial Commission in the payments by refugees	93,291	2	6
Refundable rents	4,603	2	3
Deposits and creditors	46,395	5	3
	£144,289	10	0
<i>Suspense Accounts.</i>			
Deliveries made on account of the Greek Government	£219,619	13	0

ASSETS.

Bonds deposited.

These bonds are all of the 1926 8 % Loan for the indemnification of exchanged refugees from Turkey. The Commission has accepted these bonds towards payment of the refugees' debts, under the arrangement described in the Thirteenth Report, page 5, and Fourteenth Report, page 9. .

£31,752 0 0

The Commission accepts from Greek refugees from Bulgaria established by it, on account of their debts, certificates issued in their favour by the Mixed Greco-Bulgarian Commission as compensation for the properties abandoned by them in Bulgaria. These certificates bear interest at 6 per cent and are redeemable in twelve years as from the date of distribution of the definitive bonds which will be completed in a year's time. The service is guaranteed by the revenues of the State. These certificates are received in a suspense account and the Commission reserves the right of receiving a supplementary 2 per cent representing the difference between the 6 per cent which the bonds are to pay and the 8 per cent which the Commission takes from the agricultural refugees in its debt. Further, the Commission reserves the right to demand a supplementary payment in respect of any difference that may result from the ultimate conversion into sterling.

On June 30th, the total sum represented by the certificates deposited was drachmæ 1,938,000.

Recoverable advances:

	£	s.	d.
Greek Government	77,233	9	2
Various advances	3,191	2	3
	<hr/>		
	£80,424	11	5

Per contra accounts:

Value of buildings made over by the Caisse d'Assistance	325,410	15	0
Sums derived from the sales of urban property	24,564	0	7
State debtors	45	6	2
Various deposits	2,545	7	0
	<hr/>		
	£352,565	8	9

B. RESERVES.

As we explained in our last report, all the funds at our disposal have already been appropriated with the exception of a sum of £500,000. Of this, £100,000 is set aside for the cadastre, as to which no decision has yet been taken, £130,000 for unforeseen expenditure during the year 1927, and £270,000 for general expenditure during 1928.

The sum set aside for unexpected expenditure during 1927 has been nearly exhausted, having been applied to the following purposes:

	£
Insurance of urban settlements in Western Thrace	1,182
Insurance of urban settlement of Naoussa	84
Supplementary credits for Chalcidice (Macedonia)	33,333
Supplementary credits for Crete	2,000
Supplementary credits for urban settlements of Western Thrace	10,000
Supplementary credits for urban settlements in Old Greece	56,666
Extraordinary credits granted to refugees in Macedonia who have suffered losses through hail and floods	5,035
Reserve against general expenses in view of diminished payments by refugees	20,000
	<hr/>
	£128,300

See Fourteenth Report, page 2. The estimate of the Commission's share (25 %) in payments by refugees has been reduced from £30,000 to £10,000 in consequence of the decision to accept payments in the form of bonds of the 1926 8 % Loan instead of payments in cash.

C. AMOUNTS RECOVERED.

Payments by refugees, agricultural and urban, during the three months April, May and June 1927 amounted in cash to £8,939 2s. 4d., of which £6,704 6s. 9d. was transferred to the International Financial Commission for additional amortisation of the Loan, and £2,234 15s. 7d. remains at the disposal of the Commission. Payments during the corresponding months of 1926 totalled £9,611 18s. 1d.

(a) *Payments by Agricultural Refugees.*

The following table gives a comparison between payments made during the first two quarters of 1927 and the corresponding period last year:

	1926	1927
	<i>Drachmæ</i>	<i>Drachmæ</i>
January-March	726,444	3,267,550
April-June	4,224,713	5,794,084

Of the last amount of drachmæ 5,794,084, drachmæ 1,496,584 were paid in cash and the rest in 8% bonds of the loan for the indemnification of exchangeable refugees and in 6% certificates for the indemnification of immigrants from Bulgaria.

(b) *Payments by Urban Refugees during the period April-June.*

1. Receipts collected in sterling	£2,081 3s. 9d.
2. Receipts collected in drachmæ	drachmæ 133,411.70
3. Bonds collected	7,514

These 7,514 bonds have a nominal value of drachmæ 7,514,000. Each bond is accepted by the Commission as guarantee for a debt of £2 10s. 0d. The 7,514 bonds therefore represent £18,785.

During the first quarter of 1927, these receipts had been as follows:

1. In sterling	£3,551 13s. 5d.
2. In drachmæ	drachmæ 99,003.25

D. DÎME.

We are now in possession of the complete figures showing the sums paid by agricultural refugees established on our land in the dîme on agricultural produce during the year 1926. In conformity with Article 7 of the Protocol, these sums are to be made over by the Government to the Commission. The figures are as follows:

	<i>Drachmæ</i>
Macedonia	42,699,395
Thrace	9,111,838
Old Greece, Epirus, Crete and Lemnos	1,845,432
	53,656,665

The Commission has requested the Ministry of Finance to pay this sum.

REDUCTION IN SALARIES.

With a view to decreasing its working expenses, the Commission has recently made a reduction of the salaries of its officials, from the rank of secretary of the first class upwards. The discontinuance of certain posts, rendered possible by the reduction in work which was mentioned in our last report, has resulted in an economy of approximately drachmæ 500,000 a month.

AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Fourteenth Report contained an account of tours made by Members of the Council and measures taken following on these tours. In the course of the last quarter, another measure has been taken: a travelling dispensary has been set up in Euboea and in the regions where malaria is most frequent. Other tours have been undertaken by Members of the Council in Old Greece and Thessaly as well as in Euboea.

" Varieties of crops. "

The cereal harvest in the whole of Greece has been in general satisfactory. It would have been excellent if the livas wind had not destroyed some of the crops, particularly in Macedonia. During the last few months, drought has done considerable harm to the spring crops (maize and tobacco) and hail has caused serious losses in certain regions. The Council has voted 4,000,000 drachmæ for the relief of the sufferers and, if necessary, a larger sum will be applied to this purpose.

Proposal for Indemnification of Agrarian Refugees.

Negotiations are continuing on this subject between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Commission and it is hoped that a satisfactory agreement will be arrived at.

Cadastré.

Negotiations for making this survey are also being pursued. In the meantime, the work is going on in Macedonia and elsewhere; the Government has instructed two of its experts to examine the work that has been carried out in Macedonia and to make suggestions for modifications if necessary.

URBAN ESTABLISHMENT.

Collections in Urban Settlements.

Former reports have mentioned a series of decisions taken by the Council with a view to facilitating purchase by the urban refugees of the dwellings they occupy in the settlements. The application of these measures has coincided with the decision as to the acceptance of loan bonds as a guarantee of the refugees' debts and with the publication of the law confirming the right of ownership of flats and storeys. This combination of circumstances has made a considerable

change in the sales, and also appears to have had an effect on the state of mind of the refugees, who are now realising that it is advantageous to them to purchase their dwellings. The Commission accepts loan bonds as guarantee for the payment of a debt equal to the face value of the bonds. The rate of interest of these bonds and the conditions of redemption are approximately the same as the conditions fixed by the Commission for the refugees in its debt. Consequently, assuming that the exchange value of the drachma does not fluctuate unduly in the future the bonds handed over as guarantee will extinguish a corresponding amount of debt.

Urban receipts during April, May and June 1927 have been given above (Financial Situation, C.—Amounts Recovered).

Census of Urban Refugees.

The attention of the Commission has been engrossed by agricultural establishment, and it was only when this problem appeared to be assured of its solution that it was possible to proceed with the urban refugees.

We tried in our last Report to define the question. Since then the Council has come to the conclusion that it is necessary first of all to take a census by families of the urban refugees, and the urban department began operations in the Athens-Piræus region, naturally not including the Commission, settlements, for which detailed statistics already exist.

The work of census had to deal with two distinct classes of refugee — those living in settlements built by the State or by the refugees themselves on the one hand, and, on the other, those living in the towns in hired lodgings. All these refugees were asked to furnish.

1. Name.
2. Number in family.
3. Occupation followed in country of origin.
4. Present occupation.
5. Whether any indemnity received from the State and if so how much.
6. What are the resources of the family ?

At one point the formulæ to be filled up by refugees living in settlements differ from those which the refugees in lodgings are asked to make out; in the former case, the employees of the Commission make a report on the dwellings; in the latter case, the refugees are asked to state (a) how much rent they pay and (b) how many rooms they occupy.

In the refugee settlements the work has been carried out by the employees of the Commission and by special agents engaged for that purpose. The Commission would never have been able to reach all the families living in lodgings by means of its own staff. Here the Archbishop of Athens and the Prefect of Police have rendered us valuable assistance. By means of advertisements in the Press and posters we have informed the families concerned that they would find in all the churches and in all Police stations the forms which they were requested to fill in and then return post free to the offices of the Commission. Several thousand of these forms have already been received, and they are still coming in from families living in the towns. Doubtless a large number of refugees of this class will not supply the information asked for, and the Commission will consider them as having established themselves by their own means.

It required 25 days to finish the census in the Athens-Piræus settlements; the results may be summarised as follows:

<i>Towns</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Urban Families</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Agrarian Families</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
Athens.	6,552	26,708	6,090	24,765	462	1,943
Piræus	9,617	41,967	9,066	39,635	551	2,332
Suburbs	5,439	20,450	4,922	18,375	517	2,075
Total	21,608	89,125	20,078	82,775	1,530	6,350

The agents who drew up the lists in the refugee settlements of the capital have now been sent to the provinces of Old Greece and to the islands, where they are continuing the work. In Macedonia it is being carried on by the colonisation service.

The census will furnish accurate information as to the number of refugees, the indemnities they have received, and their requirements in point of lodging. It will give us a precise idea of the number of agriculturists still living in cities. The returns will be less valuable as regards the means of the families and particularly the families some members of which are working by the day. It will be very difficult to calculate unemployment.

Enquiry on Labour.

The concluding remarks of the last paragraph lead us to the enquiry which the Commission has started into labour conditions among the urban refugees. Information will be sought from the local authorities, professional associations, societies, and private individuals who may be able to supply data on the present occupations of the refugees and the manner in which it might be possible to give them more work. It is hoped that the answers received will be practically helpful and will throw light on this question, which, as we have often had occasion to remark, is a very complex one.

Work executed during the Period of the Report.

Only the most important matters are mentioned:

The building of 500 urban houses has been started in Thrace, 350 at Xanthe and 150 at Comotini. These houses are built of masonry and always include an entry, a room, a kitchen and a w.c.

The Ministry of Communications has approved the project submitted by us for the construction of a road connecting Athens directly with Kokkinia, and carried on towards St. George's Bay (near the Piræus). We have submitted to the Ministry of Public Assistance a request for the expropriation of a considerable amount of land bordering on this road for the creation of new urban settlements. We shall thus be able to place 7,500 lots at the disposal of refugees wishing to build for themselves; we are providing these settlements with streets and a water supply (see the Fourteenth Report for further details).

Work in the Athens-Piræus district has been mainly of two descriptions:

1. *The Cadastre.* — This survey is obviously indispensable for our sales of property by the cadastral entry: houses + land. The cadastre is finished at Cesariani and nearly so at Byron and Kokkinia. It has been delayed at Ionia.

2. *Waterworks.* — It is superfluous to dwell on the importance of waterworks sufficient to bring the water accumulated in the big reservoirs to the refugee houses. The work is proceeding satisfactorily.

Preparatory studies and surveying for a new urban settlement at St. Spiridion, near Corinth, are completed.

Refugee Pavilion at Geneva.

The Commission has decided to organise at Geneva, during the September session, an exhibition of the various urban and agricultural industries carried on by the refugees whom it has established. A pavilion is to be set up for this purpose on the Quay Wilson, where samples of tobacco, wine, dry vegetables, cereals, etc., as well as industrial articles such as silks, Oriental carpets, tiles and pottery, copper vessels, women's handwork, stuffs, costumes, etc., will be shown.

COUNCIL.

Sir John Hope Simpson has left on vacation and has been replaced by Mr. Royall TYLER, representative of the League of Nations in Hungary.

Mr. Alexander Pallis has been obliged to absent himself and has been replaced by Mr. Pericles ARGYROPOULOS, former member of the Commission and ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) B. H. HILL,
President ad interim.
