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# Before you Vote on HCR 1020 - Falsely Accusing Christian Armenians of Atrocities - Please Take Note of the Following

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— The Armenian people, the first Christian nation who hail from the land of Noah, were the victims of the first genocide of the 20th century, with over 1.5 million men, women and children murdered by the Ottoman Turkish government from 1915-1923.

— The United States Congress established the Near East Relief fund to assist the survivors of the genocide, a nationwide effort that constituted America's first international humanitarian campaign - helping save hundreds of thousands of orphans and survivors of all ages from imminent starvation.

— **South Dakota played an important role in the Near East Relief humanitarian effort, including a proclamation by Canton Mayor Wm. F. Tank, urging residents to donate funds on "Golden Rule Sunday" (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) in support of Near East Relief efforts to assist over 35,000 Armenian Christian orphans struggling to survive after the Genocide. South Dakota churches statewide raised thousands of dollars to assist the "starving Armenians".**

— Christian Armenians survived Ottoman Turkish massacres and declared independence in 1918 only to be overrun, once again, by Turkish soldiers and the Soviet Army.

— During 70 years of Soviet occupation, atheist Soviet leaders subjugated the Armenian population of the region of Nagorno Karabakh to the repressive rule of the muslim Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

— From 1988 to 1990, when the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh peacefully asserted their rights to democracy and self-rule through a referendum, the Azerbaijani government instigated targeted attacks against the Armenian populations in the Azerbaijani cities of Baku, Sumgait, and Kirovabad - leaving dozens killed and forcing 300,000 Armenians to flee those cities - fearing for their lives. **Several hundred of those Christian Armenian families found safe haven in South Dakota.** Azerbaijan's attacks escalated into war against neighboring Armenia until 1994, when a ceasefire was signed by all sides.

— In 1991, people of Nagorno Karabakh declared independence and over the past 23 years has worked to strengthen its democracy and build up its economy - despite a devastating blockade by Azerbaijan.

— By contrast, the Azerbaijani government, led by the [corrupt Aliyev Dynasty - first by ex-KGB strongman Gaydar Aliyev and now by his son Ilham](#), not only continues its aggression against the Christians of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, but also represses his own people, rigging elections and cracking down on the independent media - including the [U.S. funded Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty](#).

— **To cover up their abysmal human rights record, the Azerbaijani government is paying big money to former [Obama Administration officials like David Plouffe, Jim Messina and Robert Gibbs](#) — and taking U.S. legislators from states around the U.S. - including South Dakota - on expensive trips to Azerbaijan, using "caviar diplomacy" to win over cheerleaders in the U.S.**

## South Dakota Should NOT be Associated with the Corrupt Dictatorship of Azerbaijan. Vote NO on HCR 1020

# The NEW NEAR EAST

National Headquarters  
NEAR EAST RELIEF

SEPTEMBER 1923

151 Fifth Avenue  
NEW YORK, N. Y.



H. C. Moffat, "Admiral" of the Near East Relief fleet, disembarking farm colonist boys from ship *Parnassus* at Cavallo, near where the Greek government has granted farmland for a colony of 5,000 orphan boys.

## SOUTH DAKOTA: A PROUD TRADITION OF HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

In the aftermath of the murder of over 1.5 million Christian Armenians during the first genocide of the 20th century, Congress enacted the Near East Relief to assist the hundreds of thousands of orphans and refugees in the region.

South Dakota played an instrumental role in assisting the "starving Armenians" through church fundraisers, as documented in this 1923 edition of "The New Near East" journal.

In 1925, a proclamation by Canton Mayor Wm. F. Tank, urged residents to donate funds on "Golden Rule Sunday" (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) in support of Near East Relief efforts to assist over 35,000 Armenian Christian orphans struggling to survive after the Genocide.

South Dakota continued to lend its support to Christian Armenians in the early 1990's, serving as safe haven for several hundred fleeing Azerbaijani aggression.

SEPTEMBER, 1923

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In the conduct of the work of the organization, the matter of overhead is nearly as important as the actual raising of relief funds. Pennsylvania, as well as certain other states, in an effort to effect as many economies as possible, has secured as donations free office space. The Pittsburg branch office in the Union Arcade was donated by Henry C. Frick until his death. In Philadelphia the heirs of the Roberts Estate donated to Near East Relief office space for two years, until the time when the property was sold. The present office, ideally situated from the standpoint of convenience and publicity is rented to Near East Relief on an extremely modest basis.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

The community campaign is the most effective form of appeal in South Dakota, in spite of scattered territory and small population. The campaign in the Corsica district covered six townships with an entire population of 2,600 people, who gave 489 bushels of corn and \$1,118.35 in cash. The spirit of the community was excellent; those who did not have money held food sales and gave the money. Even a wolf hunt was staged and the proceeds contributed.

At the State Fair in Huron, Near East Relief had a booth in the Women's Building exhibiting linens and rugs from the Industrial Department. More worth while publicity was ob-

tained from this booth than from any other one project in the state. A thousand dollars was taken in cash and orders and thousands of people received information concerning Near East Relief's activities and needs that is proving a valuable asset in appealing for funds.

### VIRGINIA

An outstanding feature of Near East Relief work in Virginia is its corps of two thousand volunteer workers, whose enthusiasm and whose efforts are largely responsible for the success of the Virginia campaigns.

In one campaign fifty little tickets, each representing a meal for a child overseas and each worth ten cents, were placed in the 15,000 school rooms in the State. Through the co-operation of hundreds of teachers and the enthusiastic efforts of the children this novel procedure met with phenomenal success.

The Boy Scouts of the State give invaluable aid. On Bundle Day in the cities they assist in gathering the bundles from the doorsteps.

In Lynchburg a "Billy Sunday" plan of operation was adopted. The chairman of the committee named two generals, one a man and the other a woman, who in turn named captains, each with a squad of eight workers. The entire town was canvassed in this manner and the result was oversubscription of the quota designated.



Concordia, Kansas, where the Boy Scout organization collected two tons of clothing in a single day aiding the local committee, who from left to right are: Dr. Ira D. Lambert, Rev. C. W. Anderson, C. R. Marlowe, Frank Beattie, Dr. L. E. Cook, Roy Brown and J. A. Stocker.

