

on the other were adjusted by establishing Georgian control as far as the southern borders of the districts of Akhhaltsikh and Akhalkalaki.

(d) Differences between Georgians, Armenians and local Tartars in the district of Ardahan were settled by including that district within the British Military Governorate of Batoum.

(e) The presence of British troops at Shusha rendered possible a form of compromise between Azerbaijan and Armenia, whereby an Azerbaijan administration functioned in Karabagh, whilst an Armenian council ruled in Zangezur.

(13) *Repatriation of Refugees and the Supply of Relief.*

The repatriation of refugees was another important question which had to be solved by the British administration.

In the Kars district repatriation was rendered possible only by the removal of the local Shura, which was engaged in promoting anti-Armenian agitation among the Moslem population. Repatriation of Armenians commenced on 21st April, and was carried on successfully. In all, some 80,000 refugees were repatriated. The local Moslems showed comparative friendliness, and willingly sold agricultural implements and grain to the refugees.

On the introduction of Armenian administration into the district of Nakhichevan some 30,000 Armenians were despatched to their homes. Owing to the Tartar rising in July, relief measures broke down, and it is feared that many deaths occurred from lack of food.

When the British occupied Baku the Armenian leader, Andronick, with an irregular force, about 1,200 strong, was operating against the Tartars in Karabagh, and besides his troops he was shepherding and feeding some 30,000 Armenian refugees from the Dilman area.

By the middle of April, 1919, these troops were disbanded and disarmed, and the refugees dispersed in the districts of Zangezur, Nakhichevan, Erivan and elsewhere, after which Andronick, with a small personal staff, left for Europe.

Such was the state of want in the Caucasus when the British occupation began that it is calculated that some 500,000 of the inhabitants were then destitute, and of these probably 200,000 were actually in danger of death by starvation.

Relief measures were undertaken chiefly by two American societies, the "American Relief Association" and the "American Committee for Relief in the Near East." The work which these two societies organised and carried out has been of inestimable value to the sorely tried and destitute inhabitants. It has meant the alleviation of an untold amount of misery and the saving of a great number of lives. I cannot speak too highly of the truly practical philanthropic rôle which the devoted members of these societies in the Caucasus have fulfilled since the early days of our occupation, often under conditions of danger and of the greatest discomfort. The British Army in the Caucasus has at all times given them such assistance as was in its power.

As already stated, the supply of relief material under British auspices began in February, 1919, and, although hampered by the state of the railways, it was gradually increased in spite of every form of local obstruction and other difficulty. By the beginning of September,

1919, a total of over 30,000 tons of relief material had been transported to refugee areas.

In Baku, food control was instituted immediately on the occupation, and arrangements were made to import food by sea from Persia and by rail from Derbent. This control was dispensed with in March, 1919. Similar measures were also put in force in Batoum.

(14) *The Administration of the more Important Districts.*

(a) *The town of Baku.*

On arrival in Baku, Major-General Thomson found it necessary to place the city and the oil-fields under martial law from 17th November, 1918. The Azerbaijan Government at that time consisted entirely of Mussulmans of the business class, anti-British, anti-Russian, and anti-Socialist. Trade had entirely ceased; practically all the shops and factories were closed. There was a shortage of food and a complete absence of manufactured goods. The value of the rouble was decreasing, prices were rising, the populace had lost all belief in just government and all confidence in credit institutions. The population of Baku at the time of the re-occupation was about 260,000, of whom 200,000 were Tartars. The prompt evacuation of the town by Turkish and Azerbaijan troops was demanded, the former to Turkey, the latter to Elisabetpol. A truculent and obstructive attitude was adopted by the Turkish command, and it was not until the end of December that the last Turkish soldier had left Azerbaijan territory.

The police were organised under a British commissioner. Control of all food supplies was proclaimed, and arrangements were made to import food and fuel by sea. Food was sold on a rationing system, worked by the municipal authorities under British supervision. As communications improved trade recommenced, shops began to open, and food distribution finally ceased in March.

The General Officer Commanding in Baku acted as Military Governor until the departure of the forces in August. Although it was seldom necessary to intervene in local affairs, the retention of the power to do so ensured that moderate councils prevailed.

Labour unrest required attention, and a British Labour Controller was appointed. The Turkish regulation giving preference to Mussulman labourers was cancelled. Food was issued daily through the British Food Control, and a bureau was formed which paid workers their wages every fortnight. Some 65,000 men were settled with fortnightly up to March, 1919, when the duty was transferred to the local government. The sums involved were large; the expenditure on the oilfields alone was 50,000,000 roubles monthly, while railways, shipping, dockyards, factories, port and lighthouse services had all at one time to be subsidised.

Confidence was then gradually restored, and the introduction of labour laws encouraged.

As previously stated, a British Shipping Control was established, the Russian seamen and dockers refusing to work except under British control, and the reorganisation of the railways and of the oil industry was started.

Owing to the restarting of trade, railways and factories, the establishment of a State bank could not long be deferred. The old Russian State bank was then in the hands of the Central