

**XV INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE
TOKYO 1934**



SWEDISH RED CROSS

III. MEALS FOR CHILDREN

**PROVIDED BY THE SWEDISH RED CROSS IN
RELIEF OF DISTRESS AMONG
THE UNEMPLOYED**

1932—1933

STOCKHOLM 1934



The village of Kuivakangas on the Arctic Circle, where children were fed during the winter.

MEALS FOR CHILDREN PROVIDED BY THE SWEDISH RED CROSS IN RELIEF OF DISTRESS AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED 1932—33.

Sweden has not escaped her share of the economic crisis which for 4 years has disorganized the world. Although its effects have not been as severe in this as in many other countries, they have been sufficiently serious to require the intervention of the Swedish Red Cross.

Sweden has a population of 6.2 millions, and an area of 448,000 sq. km., or about 15 times that of Belgium. Of that area 57 per cent. is bearing productive forests, and the depression resulting from the crisis has caused severe unemployment in the northern districts, the centre of forestry and the industries based on the forests. The population in some of the coast districts of southern and central Sweden also suffered severely from unemployment and its consequences owing to the complete cessation of work in the previously flourishing quarries and stone-yards there, where the preparation of large quantities of Swedish granite for export used to be a relatively important industry.



School children fed by the Swedish Red Cross in our northernmost country.



Feeding of children in a north of Sweden school.



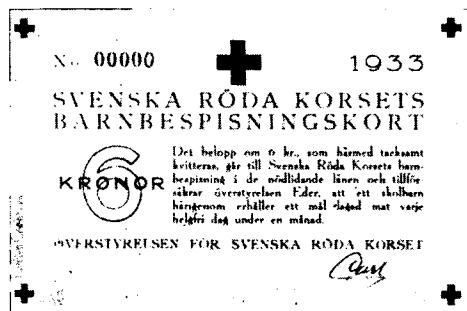
A corner of the boys' dining-room in a Norrbotten school.

Reports to the Central Committee from the local branches of the Red Cross showed that, in spite of certain public measures of relief, there was in the late autumn of 1932 a serious danger of under-nourishment in several districts, particularly among the school children, who often have far to walk in weather which, especially in the north of Sweden, is very severe in winter. As in addition the children's clothing was wearing out, and the continued crisis made renewals increasingly difficult, the fear grew that the children in large areas would suffer serious injury from under-feeding and insufficient clothing.

The County Authorities and the Red Cross District Committees of the worst afflicted parts unreservedly supported the form of assistance which, on the initiative of its President, H. R. H. Prince Carl, had been proposed by the Swedish Red Cross Central Committee, viz. the *provision of meals for school children and distribution of clothing* through the numerous local Red Cross organizations. This form of assistance fully accords with the general objects of the Swedish Red Cross, i. e. the preventive side of public health, and particularly child welfare,

and that its work should always be done under its own strict control and management.

The need of assistance having been thus proved, the Central Committee immediately set about procuring the necessary funds by appealing to the public for contributions to a special collection all over the country. Clothing was also collected in practically every Red Cross district.



»Children's Meal Ticket», sold by the Red Cross organizations, banks, shops, etc.

A few words might well be said here about the money collected, as the result clearly indicates the great confidence and goodwill with which the people of Sweden regards its Red Cross. In a few months, over 600,000 kronor* were collected, an excellent result for a small country with only 6 million inhabitants, at a time of great economic depression.

Most of the money was obtained *either* by the sale of so-called Children's Meal Tickets, *or* by issuing Postal Check forms with newspapers etc. By these means an intending subscriber could pay in a sum of 1.50, 6, or 24 kr., for which sums the Swedish Red Cross guaranteed to provide one underfed child with an ample, cooked meal daily for a week, a month, or 4 months respectively, which latter period covered the whole school term until the beginning of the warm weather. »Help a child for a week, a month, or a term according to your means» ran the appeal to the public. The more personal character of the help which the public was thus asked to give, and the fact that the Red Cross Central Committee

* 1,000 kronor is approximately £ 50.

SVENSKA RÖDA KORSETS		BARNBESPISNING 1933
BIDRAG TILL LINDRANDE AV NÖDEN!		
<p>Det är hårda tider och nöd hotar. I Sveriges län av vårt land bida barnen brist på det nödvändigaste. Det är därför Svenska Röda Korset satt sig i spetsen för en insamling vars ändamål är att besöka skolbarnen i de län där nöden är störst.</p>		
<p>Betänk att ett bidrag från Eder på kr. 1: 50 kr. 0:— kr. 24:— betyder ett mål lagad mat varje skoldag under en vecka en månad en termin</p>		
<p><i>Ensom vilddrogade bidragskort kan till postfritt inlämnas Ederi bidrag. Alla influtna medel gå avkortade till bidragsintaget. Överstyrelsen för Svenska Röda Korset.</i></p>	<p>Hjälp ett barn under en vecka, en månad eller en termin allt efter Eder förnöga. Det är vår egna ungdom det gäller.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Överstyrelsen för Svenska Röda Korset Carl.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Medföljer som tidsningsbilaga.</i></p>		
KUPONG	INBETALNINGSKORT	Frammärkes af Närvarande- gillne riddare af Sveriges Riddarhus No 127 6128:4
Ä postkost kortet till 599 99 betalat kr. — <small>ny</small> Anslå gifva förnödenhet utlösta af skolans i det så nödvändiga till under skolväsendet Norrbottens län Västerbottens " Västermanlands " Bjerkinge " Användarens namn och adress	Användare angifves hvar ä bidragaren Beträffande Anropa Öre Med betydet tillika till utlösa skolväsendet för skolans under skolväsendet ut lösta <p style="text-align: center;">Till Överstyrelsen för Svenska Röda Korset Stockholm 14</p> <p style="text-align: right;">att postkosterna postkosterna af via postgirokontoret, Stockholm 599 99</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Inbetalsväg</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Centralbladsnummer 10 123</p>	
Inbetalsväg		

»Children's Meal Ticket», postal check form.

was a guarantor, and undertook to pay all costs of administration, proved a happy expedient. In that way the donors had a more direct feeling of the benefit resulting from their contribution, and those who wished could even direct that their gift should be used in any part of the country they chose.

Certain of the leading newspapers started collections of their own for the Red Cross »Meals for Children», and one paper in our southernmost province did so well that it provided all the money necessary to feed the distressed in the neighbouring province.

Ample contributions in kind were also received, chiefly in the form of grain and flour from the agricultural centres.

A national campaign was started for the provision of clothing, and brought in more than 300 tons of good clothes.

The wearing apparel collected was carefully sorted, repaired as required, and then used primarily in the district where it was collected, while any surplus was sent to other places where it was needed, according to the precise instructions and forwarding plans issued by the Central Committee. In the capital, the intimate cooperation of boy and girl scouts was enlisted for the extensive work of collecting the clothing given, and conveying it to one of the barracks, where



An inhabitant of Norrbotten. He is wearing every stitch of clothing he possesses.

ladies of the Red Cross and others were busy for several weeks supervising the sorting, repairing, and packing of it, ready for dispatch to the districts needing it most, or for distribution in Stockholm. To show the scope of the collection, it may be mentioned that over 60,000 parcels of clothing were collected in Stockholm in one day.

In the distribution of the money, food, and clothing received to the distressed districts, the Central Committee was given valuable assistance from the State and private railways and from steamship companies, who in this relief work carried the goods for nothing. In all about 100 truck-loads of food and clothing were dispatched free of charge.

It was chiefly in the three above-mentioned districts, viz. the forest district furthest north and the quarry districts on the south and west coasts, that the intervention of the Red Cross was essential. But sporadic distress also appeared in certain smaller districts in the interior, making the dispensation of children's meals by the Red Cross desirable there too.



More than 60,000 parcels of clothing and 15,000 kronor were collected in Stockholm in one day by the Swedish Red Cross.

From the beginning of 1933 to the end of May the same year, meals for school children were arranged in all these districts. They were organized by the Central Committee, and supervised locally by the Red Cross District Committees in consultation with the communal authorities and with the cooperation of the schools.

The arrangements for the actual serving of the meals varied in the different districts according to local conditions. In some places the local Red Cross organization looked after the feeding with the assistance of voluntary helpers, in other hired labour was used, and

in others again help was hired to do the cooking while volunteers served the meals. Here and there the children were fed in adjacent private houses.

The rule everywhere was that each day they attended school the children should receive one cooked meal composed on modern physiological principles of nutrition.

In the first five months of 1933 about 17,000 children in 600 different localities received these meals, and 6,650 of them lived in our northernmost province, Norrbotten, on either side of the Arctic Circle.

In the winter of 1933—34 too, the Swedish Red Cross arranged meals for children at a few places in Norrbotten and, though less extensively, also in the quarry districts on the south and west coast. In certain towns, meals have also been specially arranged by the Red Cross for the children of out-of-work intellectuals.

Although these children's meals had to be organized on very short notice wherever necessary, everything functioned to perfection, and they have done much to popularize the Red Cross and to swell its ranks. But the greatest and most encouraging gain was that they saved many thousands of Swedish children from the danger of under-feeding, and restored happiness and confidence to thousands of Swedish homes.



STOCKHOLM 1934
EMIL KIHSTRÖMS TRYCKERI A.-B.
2679