

FELIX H. VON ECKARDT:

WINTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION

The Winter Relief Organization for the winter 1935—36 has started operations, and the greatest charitable organization that any nation ever created to overcome distress is resuming the work done in previous years. The aim has not been changed, and, as before, no fellow-countryman must go hungry or cold this winter. The most important factor in attaining this great goal is the creation of an all-inclusive national community which makes it possible to enlist the entire German nation in the service of an idea and a sacrifice. Care must be taken in canvassing that the readiness and self-sacrifice of each individual who is prepared to assist in the great cause of the community are made use of and employed at the right point.

Last winter 1,338,335 helpers worked to make the Winter Relief Organization a success, of whom only 5,198 were paid or remunerated. 308,262 helpers were busy all winter in an honorary capacity, while the remainder were employed from time to time. The most self-sacrificing work was done by the 300,000 permanently employed who went tirelessly from house to house, collected gifts in money and kind, and packed parcels of foodstuffs composed according to the needs of the sufferers, and who then had to undertake their distribution to those cared for by the Winter Relief Organization. In doing so the relief was not confined to those who informed the helpers of their distress and asked for help, but was also extended to families who could not bring themselves to ask for help. The helpers were tireless in their endeavours to discover even those who were ashamed to admit their need. Altogether the total number of those to whom relief was afforded in some form or another was 13,866,571. On the basis of the total population of Germany, this means that out of every 1,000 inhabitants



Those contributing to the Winter Relief Organization receive paper discs which are posted on their front doors and which indicate that the tenant supports the Winter Relief Organization with regular contributions. Many millions of such discs were used, and the demand for them also benefited the graphic industry.

Button-hole badges which were sold for the benefit of the Winter Relief Organization. They were made of all sorts of materials and by all kinds of processes. The selections was made in such a way that their manufacture provided employment for all kinds of distressed handworkers.

