

An Appeal for Kansas

Thaddeus Hyatt, president of the National Kansas Committee, writes this published "appeal" to the New York Tribune editor. It is subtitled "with practical suggestions for its relief." This committee, also known as the Kansas Relief Committee in its early years, worked to send free state settlers into Kansas Territory and to obtain support for Kansas Territory from the Northeast.

Creator: Hyatt, Thaddeus

Date: October 10, 1856

Callnumber: Port Vault K 361 H991c 1856

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 90463

Item Identifier: 90463

www.kansasmemory.org/item/90463

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HISTORICAL
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978.1-C.P., v.1.

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1856 To the Editor of the

CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR:

The following Appeal is designed to stimulate exertion as well as to furnish necessary information. Tens of thousands through the country are ready to give could they but know the way.

May I ask from you, sir, as a friend of Kansas, an insertion of the following.

Respectfully yours,

THADDEUS HYATT.

AN APPEAL FOR KANSAS,

WITH PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS RELIEF.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: In this day's TRIBUNE correspondence from Kansas I read the following:

"I saw a man to-day whom I had known in New-England. He said to me: 'I came to Kansas with \$1,500 in money; I have served through the whole war; I have a wife and nine children; they have lived for a fortnight on green corn and squash; there is in my house neither meat, nor potatoes, nor meal, nor flour, nor money; nor do I know where to look for any. But I shall live and die in Kansas.'"

The writer further says:

"If money is to be, or can be raised in behalf of suffering Free Kansas, let it rather be employed in sustaining the suffering and impoverished here, than in sending other emigrants."

Kansas needs more men, let me add, but such only should go as can support themselves. Three men well fed and clothed are better than ten famishing ones. Friends of Freedom! awake, I beseech you, to action. Friends of Humanity! lost moments now are golden sands of life vanished forever!

This is the 10th of October. Beyond the limits of civilization, four hundred weary miles of prairie intervene between us and the perishing!

This is the 10th of October! and soon those broad wastes will lie buried beneath acres of snow!

When that time shall have come, our brave but suffering people will be cut off, as by a wall, from the entire North, and unless previously provided for, will be left a prey to all the villainies and devilish atrocities of the monsters who have thus far so cruelly scourged them. Who, then, shall succor the widow in her desolation? What hand shall feed her innocents, perishing by cold and hunger? In that sad hour where shall the brave defenders of Freedom look for relief?

Upon the exertions of TO-DAY depend the issues of ages!

The time may seem short to us, oh, friends! between now and November; the time may seem short to us between this and the Crowning of March! We are all looking, and I trust all working, for the election of our beloved Fremont, the hope and morning star of crushed and suffering Kansas. But consider, oh, ye well fed ones! consider, oh, ye comfortably clad ones! consider, oh, ye well sheltered ones! that time wastes slowly for those who are waiting their hour of deliverance. To the perishing, hours are like days, and days like weary years!

This is the 10th of October. Despotism yields grudgingly to Freedom only the desert for a highway.

There is no Missouri for us! The rivers of America are no longer open to freemen. By and by they will be opened. By and by, when our noble "Pathfinder" shall be our brave Path-opener! then shall freemen once more smile. Then shall Kansas be saved!

But, while watching and waiting and praying and working for this great consummation, let us likewise seize the passing moments to fortify and sustain Liberty's brave defenders on Kansas soil. Friends, my heart is full, and I could say much, but will say no more. You will heed this appeal. It must be so.

You ask now for information. Listen: On the 4th of last July the citizens of Kansas appointed a "Central Kansas Committee" within the Territory, thirteen in number, chosen one from each district of the twelve into which Kansas is divided, and a thirteenth man from Lawrence.

On the 9th of July, at Buffalo, the friends of Kansas in Convention chose a National Kansas Committee without the Territory, sixteen in number, one from each of the Free States, with supplementary working members from Illinois and Kansas.

The headquarters of this organization is at Chicago. W. F. M. Army, at that point, is our indefatigable and faithful transportation agent.

The National Committee act in concert with the Central Committee. The first relief train has just entered Kansas. The National Committee now possess facilities for forwarding supplies. Let no time be lost in sending them in. Where it can be done, it is best to mark and send direct to W. F. M. Army, Chicago, paying freight for the same where you can afford it. In such cases, mark your consignments "paid," and by letter apprise Mr. Army of this fact. As the expense of transportation is great, send NEW rather than half-worn clothing. Clothing packed in barrels lined with "tar-paper," will go without risk of injury from dampness. The interstices around and among the goods may be filled with rice, beans, and such like food as will not be injured by impregnation from the garments or tar-paper. Blanket-shawls and blankets will be very acceptable to the shivering settlers this Winter. Pins, needles, thread, buttons and such small things should not be overlooked. Where you can, send gray or green flannel, rather than red or white. The reasons for this are important.

Any further information may be obtained by writing to W. F. M. Army, Chicago; or to

THADDEUS HYATT,

President of the National Kansas Committee, New-York.
New-York, Oct. 10, 1856.

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