

28th Dec. 28.

117258

Dear Mr. Feakins,

Thank you for your kind letter of 15th inst. The Russian Famine pictures illustrate the incredible sufferings of the people of the Volga valley during the horrible famine of 1921-1922, when something like thirty Million people, or more, were starving. The pictures show the dying children and all the misery, and the lecture would describe the famine, its causes and our relief work, when we fed some millions. At the same time there was the wonderful American relief work under Hoover's leadership and so marvellously organized by him. This humanitarian work of the Americans is unique in the history of mankind. I have lantern slides and also moving pictures for this lecture. It is however, a rather gruesome story, though stirring, you see the peasants on the road running away from their villages in search of food, they and their camels dropping dead along the roads, the children dying in their leads <sup>and in the fields</sup>. The hundreds of corpses on the churchyards etc. etc. It is the darkest experience I ever lived through. That too was an aftermath of war, and gives a picture of what real misery and suffering means. If desired it could also be made a part of the lecture I have called "the Aftermath of War", in which I intended chiefly to describe the repatriation of the prisoners of war from Russia & Siberia, & the work for Greek and Armenian refugees and for which I did not think to use pictures, but the famine pictures could be shown after this lecture if you consider it desirable.

I have thought over your suggestion to lecture on Norway before the National Geographic Soc., Washington, and I think that perhaps I could make a fairly interesting story out of it, if only I could get some good pictures. I will ask our people here what they have got.

I suppose I am expected to speak on Oceanography to the Oceanographic class at John Hopkins University, and I will bring lantern slides for the purpose. Would the lecture before the Columbie University be expected to be on some scientific subject (like Oceanography, or the Isostasy of the Earth's crust and formation of Mountains), or on Polar Exploration, or humanitarian work?

I have forgotten to mention that I could also give a lecture on Siberia and my journey through that country in 1913, for which I have a good collection of lantern views. But I would not say that this lecture would be very exciting.

I think I told you in a previous letter that I could also lecture on Armenia and the Armenian Refugees, if you cable in time so that

1 m

2 one

7 e 10

L 7