



## Coverage of Famine and Starving Children In the Press (1917-1924)

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**Abstract.** In this article, the details of the famine that occurred in Turkestan in 1917, the fate of starving people and starving children who were deported from Russia in 1921 due to the famine were tried to be covered based on press materials. Particularly, daily news and articles about the issue of famine were objectively analyzed on the pages of the newspapers as "Ulug Turkistan", "Bashkiristan News", "El Bayrogi", "Ishtrokiyun", "Ozod Sibir", "Fergana".

**Key words.** aid to the hungry, famine, liberty, дума, food, old city, starving, poor, money, uezd, agriculture, grain, railway, local rich people, theater.

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On the eve of the establishment of Soviet government in Turkestan, the economic situation in the country was very hard. As a result of the First World War, which began in 1914, due to the general crisis in the economy, the import of grain from abroad to Fergana was reduced, and the harvest was destroyed as a result of severe frosts in the winter of 1916-1917 and drought in the summer of 1917. The population of the country needed 111 million poods of grain to live, but in 1917, only 52 million poods of grain were harvested. Until 1917, 14 million to 20 million pounds of grain was imported to Turkestan every year, but due to the decline in Russian agriculture in 1917, only a little less than 1.5 million pounds of grain was imported in 1918-1919 with great difficulties. The closure of the Tashkent-Orenburg railway during the struggle against the Soviet government also played a big role in this. This situation condemned the population of the country to famine. From 1917, famine began in the country.

Information about the famine, socio-economic and political life in Turkestan and Russian territories was mainly covered on the pages of press. The famine started in Turkestan in 1917, the fate, problems and solutions of the hungry and hungry children who were moved from the Russian territories in 1921 due to the famine were reflected in every edition of the newspapers. Because press materials also contribute to the objective study and analysis of historical processes with accuracy and impartiality.

In the issue 3 of the newspaper "Ulug Turkestan" in 1917, in the article under the heading "Food issue", it is said that the only goal of today's work is that people should be loving and loyal to the government. Because of the high prices, there began bewilderedness among the people, and when two people talked, they talked about high prices and hunger. The lack of products in grocery stores was also discussed in the markets<sup>1</sup>. It can be seen that the famine made the life of the people very difficult.

N.Yovushov began his article "Measures to get rid of hunger" with the words as "People

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<sup>1</sup> Food issue// Ulug Turkestan. May 13. 1917. No. 3.

ask Liberty for food, hunger allows looting". Referring to the situations he witnessed during his trip to Eastern Turkestan, he says that Chinese Turkestan has a lot of food, but communication routes are poor. Secondly, he says that the Russian money has no value there (1 Russian rouble is equal to 24 pennies)<sup>2</sup>. The slogans "Liberty, Justice, Masovat" may develop the government and build it on this basis. It is said that the people should be fed for the development of the republic. It is impossible to organize the country without getting rid of hunger. In order to put the state in order, political and social institutions have been opened, cultural and administrative work has been fully completed, and the people welcome liberty with great joy, although they repeat the words "liberty, liberty", they say whether liberty can save the people from hunger. From this it is clear that the liberty can not feed.

"People were hungry" it was heard every day that there were people who were suffering from hunger and could not leave their homes. It was even possible to tell the situation by seeing the dying people from hunger. So it was a sad situation that the people were facing death due to hunger and lack of food.

Bad weather may become good, but there is no guarantee that the famine in Turkestan will be good. It is said that if effective measures are not taken to prevent famine, the condition of the people may worsen. It is said that "the people who took action were freed from hunger."

Under the heading "News from Tashkent" the issue of food was discussed: "There is no need to talk about the importance of food in Turkestan. The goal is to finish this issue as soon as possible and talk about the state of the people. As the people who came to Tashkent say that there is a lot of flour and wheat there. It is said that there are a lot of food vendors in the markets. It is said that wheat is sold for 2 soums per kg. So, it is said that there are grain products in the markets of Tashkent, and it is mentioned that the living conditions are much better than in other cities.

In particular, in a mood of dissatisfaction with the policy of the government, they expressed the following opinions:

If the government and the hunger committees open the way, if they do not block the way of flour and wheat going from one city to another, the people of Turkestan will soon be free from hunger. At the time of famine, the committee and collegiums helped starving Russia to pay for cotton and crops, leaving the hungry people at their disposal. Let the government help the people today instead of these things.

The local rich people made various proposals to the government, they appealed to give opportunities to feed the hungry people: For example, Mahammadboy from Tashkent said: If I am given permission, I will bring a lot of grain and wheat from different cities to Tashkent markets and the price will be affordable for the people<sup>3</sup>.

The reasons for the sudden increase in the prices of grain products in the markets of the Fergana Valley were shown. It is said that even they wrote a complaint letter to the дума: "Due to the high price of dukki (soybean) flour in Fergana, the price reached 120 soums. In recent days, the same thing has happened in Tashkent. It is said that flour is also taken from Dukki in Tashkent and sent to Fergana. Due to this reason, the price of dukki (soybean) suddenly rose to 75-80 soums in the market last week. It was 60 soums in the previous market.

Said Akhmadhoja, a member of the market committee in the old city, expressed his disagreement to the Duma. According to Said Ahmadkhoja, 500 pounds of dukki were confiscated in the market in the old city. Then 200 poods (1 pood is equal to 16.3805 kg) was sold to the poor

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<sup>2</sup> Measures to get rid of hunger// Greater Turkestan. May 13, 1917. No. 5

<sup>3</sup>News from Tashkent // Ulug Turkestan. May 29, 1917. No. 7

at the low price<sup>4</sup>.

Newspapers published a message entitled "A terrible famine is ahead." It states: "The delivery of food from Orenburg to Tashkent has stopped (because the famine began in Russia. During the days when the food committee had food in hand, one loaf of black bread was distributed per person, the situation is extremely difficult."

In the article entitled "Search in the old city" it is said that due to the famine, the armed soldiers and workers attacked the population living in the "old city" and took the food products from them with force and there increased the number of people dying from hunger in the old city<sup>5</sup>.

The message written by Abdulaziz Andijani under the heading "News from Andijan" contained the following points: There are expensive times in the city and along with the start of famine, infectious diseases have also increased. For this reason, an organization was formed by the local rich to help the hungry. The name of this organization is "Al-Musliman Darul Ojizin" and 60 soums of money were collected by this organization. This organization prepares and distributes food for the hungry.

On December 13-14, 1918, two children of a poor woman died from cold due to snow and cold<sup>6</sup>. It can be felt that the cold winter worsened the situation of the people while the scourge of hunger intensified.

In the message under the heading "News from Tashkent" it was mentioned that hunger was easily alleviated in Tashkent. It was said that the fact that the winter had been hard and covered with thick snow would help to solve the problem of hunger, that there would be plenty of water for the next year and that the crops would produce a good harvest<sup>7</sup>.

In some reports, it was said that the grain products distributed by the committees to help the hungry were not distributed uniformly: "According to those who wrote to our address, on the days when the demand for food of the poor people increased, the old city food committee gave one pood to the mudarris (a teacher at a madrasah) and administrators, and two poods to the people above them. It is unfair"<sup>8</sup>.

In some pages of the newspaper, it was also noted that wealthy people in the neighborhoods helped the hungry people. The names of these persons are listed aname by name. The amount of money they gave for help was shown. This gave the people a spark of hope for the future.

In particular, in the article entitled "Help to poor people", it was noted about the persons who donated and distributed food to the hungry on January 13, 1918 in the Sha'ban neighborhood of Kokcha daha in Tashkent: Rustambek Khoji Karimbekov, Karimbek Norbekov, Dolimbek Norbekov, Yoldoshbek Norbekov (descendants of the Norbekovs) author), Tillaboy Aziz Muhammedov, son of Rasul Mominboy: 100 soums; Abdulqayum Mominboev - 500 soums, Abdulmavlon Mominboev - 200 soums, Olimhoji Muslimboy's son, Nurmuhamaadhoji Muslimboy's son, Ahmad Yolchiev - 50 soums, besides them, everyone gave money from 50 soums to 5 soums, a total of 1010 thousand soums was collected. With this money, food was prepared and served to the hungry from January 14. Currently, 170 people are fed every day. They decided to feed the poor for 3 months in this way. May the God accept the donations of those who give alms to the poor in such difficult days. Muhammad Amirqori Hajizade writes, "We thank all of them on behalf of the nation"<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> The reason why flour is so expensive in Fergana // Ulug Turkestan. 1918. №40.

<sup>5</sup> Terrible hunger is ahead //Ulug Turkestan. 1918. №48.

<sup>6</sup> News from Andijan // Ulug Turkestan newspaper 1918. № 49

<sup>7</sup> News from Tashkent// Ulug Turkestan newspaper 1918. № 50

<sup>8</sup> Complaint // Ulug Turkestan. 1918.№ 51

<sup>9</sup> Help to poor people // Ulug Turkestan 1918. January 26. №55.

It can be seen that it is the duty of every self-sufficient citizen to help the hungry. On behalf of the nation, thanks were given to those who extended their helping hand.

It can be seen that it was the duty of every self-sufficient citizen to help the hungry. On behalf of the nation, many thanks were given to those who gave their helping hands.

The great writer Abdulla Kadiri, who was one of the most famous people of the time, was not indifferent to this scourge of famine, but he felt the nation's pain as his own pain, and he wrote the consequences of the famine on the pages of the newspaper. In his article entitled "The Scourge of Hunger" he wrote: " A man named Orzikul and his wife with four children died of starvation in the village of Torakurgan of Namangan city. In addition, Kurgoncha, Yandama, Mozorkuy, Eskiabad, and Kumboy villages were also affected by famine and increased greatly. We pray that His Truthfully would send blessings to these places"<sup>10</sup>.

In the next issue, an article entitled "Avliyoota" was published: "In order to help the starving Kazakh-Kyrgyz people, rich Muslims in Avliyoota collected 10-15 thousand soums and organized canteens and accomodations for the hungry people. It was said that the number of hungry people who were under the care of the people of the city had exceeded 1000, and that number was increasing every day. It should be noted that the aid committees also took care of those who arrived on that day. On behalf of the hungry, they sincerely thanked the people of the city who helped them as much as they could when they were facing death"<sup>11</sup>.

In the same issue of the newspaper, the article entitled "The scourge of famine" reported as: "The famine is terrible in the western part of Bukhara, and the people are moving to Afghanistan with their wives and children to get rid of hunger."

It is said that a canteen was opened for the hungry people by the charity of "Marginon jamiyati" (Marginan society), and 30,678 soums 92 kopek were collected and 1,495 soums 60 kopeks were spent from December 27 to January 14, 1918<sup>12</sup>.

The fact that people were dying from hunger in three provinces of Tashkent uezd was covered in the article under the heading "Deads from hunger": "...We wrote that hunger in Turkestan has increased at a terrible rate in recent days. Readers of our newspaper must have seen how sad things are happening in the section of news from the cities and villages of Turkestan. Terrible reports about the famine in three provinces of Tashkent uezd have been received. The reports received from the hunger committee contain very sad news: from January 20 to January 27, 1918, 115 people died in three villages from hunger and cold. It is reported that 53 people died in Kurgan, 43 people in Yovdol, 19 people in Bukuneni, in total 115 people died of hunger and cold in one week.

Physicians' Union published a manifesto against hunger: "In order to prevent increasing the number of hungry and poor people in Uezds, the "Physicians' Union" has published a Manifesto in Tashkent with the joint support.

in this issue under the heading "Help the hungry" it was also written as follows: "It is well known that the most important and pressing issue for Turkestan today is the increased demand for food. Food committees are working mainly in the cities to feed the Russian population, and the local people are not even remembered by them. In many places, there are starving people living in the hope of receiving help from the Russians. It was also noted that "typhus" and other such diseases were increasing as a result of hunger.

Let everyone devote a part of their material wealth to this common work. Muslims will

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<sup>10</sup> The scourge of hunger// Ulug Turkestan. January 26, 1918. № 55

<sup>11</sup> Avliyoota // Ulug Turkestan. January 31, 1918. № 58.

<sup>12</sup> The scourge of hunger// Ulug Turkestan. January 31, 1918. № 58.

never forget our help. The money collected for the benefit of the hungry is also accepted at the address of Ulug Turkestan newspaper”<sup>13</sup>.

In issue 60 of the newspaper, it was reported that 405,000 soums were collected on the initiative of production enterprises for the benefit of Kazakhs and Kyrgyz who gathered in the city in Tashkent uezd. This money would be given to the editors of Ulug Turkestan newspaper to hand over to the needy Kazakhs and Kyrgyz<sup>14</sup>.

An article entitled "Concert for the benefit of the hungry" was published in this issue of the newspaper. On February 14-16, 1918, Mrs. I. Holvitina organized a one-day concert for the benefit of the hungry in Tashkent, and the money from this concert was handed over to the committees of the hungry<sup>15</sup>.

An article entitled "Commission for Aid to the Hungry" was published. It reads as follows: "The commission elected by the "Ittifaq" society to help the hungry and naked Muslims in the uezd and villages, at the meeting on February 17, 1918, the union collected money and established several centers to feed the hungry in the villages of Alimkent, Pskent, and Boka. "...The following people were elected to the membership of the commission: Mukhammadjon Orozov - chairman, Kabir Bakr - deputy chairman, Nabi Shams Aldinov - secretary, Karim Tolinov - accountant, Mukhammadrakhim Tominov - chief money collector. "The members of this council will also receive at the address of Ulug Turkestan newspaper<sup>16</sup>.

In issue 62 of the newspaper, "To Hungry Unemployed People", it was written about employment at the Bulatov Logging Company on Quyluq Road, Tashkent. It was also said to hire hungry citizens and give them 60 soums per month. It was also reminded that they would be given an accomodation too<sup>17</sup>.

In the article entitled "Help to the Hungry" under the heading "News from Tashkent", the "Help to the Hungry" commission established under the "Ittifaq" society listed the following people: 5000 soums from Asadullaev's firm, 5000 soums from the Russian Woolen Cloth manufacture, 4000 soums from the Abdullaevs, 2000 soums from Rahim Tolinov, 1,500 soums from brother Oboevs, 1,000 soums from Karim Tuminov, 1,000 soums from Rasulmuhammad Badol Muhammedov, 900 soums from Shams Aldinov, 140 soums from Iskandar Shams Aldinov, 500 soums from Trade House of the Yanboevs, 200 soums from Robiya Yanboeva, 500 soums from Fayzullahoja Abdullahojaev, a total of 2172 thousand soums. Karim Tuminov reported that necessary food was bought for this money and meals were prepared for the hungry people in the villages of Balankent and Pskent<sup>18</sup>.

In the article "For the benefit of the hungry" in this issue it was stated: "On January 27, 1918, the wealthy people of the Gozabazar neighborhood under the Beshyogoch district of Tashkent city collected enough money for food for 5 months for the citizens of their neighborhood who are suffering from hunger. Their names and amount of money are indicated. They are as follows: Mulla Shoolim Haji son of Shakhisak Haji – 4000 thousand soums; Shah Osman Haji son of Muhammed – 2000 thousand soums; Shahmahsud Haji son of Shohortiq, Yusuf son of Kasimboy, Shah Faizinboy son of Shomahmud – 1000 soums; Tolaganboy son of Olimboy Haji – 3000 soums; Mulla Abdullah son of Rahimboy, Mulla Sultan son of Qasimboy, Tajiboy son of Khamidboy – 200 soums; Amir Ali son of Yusuf Ali – 150 soums; Makhtumkhoja son of

<sup>13</sup> The hungry dead; Help the hungry // Ulug Turkestan. February 3, 1918. № 59.

<sup>14</sup> Ulug Turkestan. February 21, 1918. № 60.

<sup>15</sup> Concert for the benefit of the hungry // Ulug Turkestan. February 21, 1918. № 60

<sup>16</sup> Commission for Aid to the Hungry // Ulug Turkestan. February 21, 1918. № 61

<sup>17</sup> To the starving unemployed // Ulug Turkestan. 1918. № 62.

<sup>18</sup> Help to the hungry // Ulug Turkestan. 1918. № 63

Amirkhoja – 1000 soums; We thank everyone of them.”<sup>19</sup>

We can see in the following article that the Uzbek, Kazakh, and Tatar youth staged theaters to help the hungry in Turkestan, and the amount of money that was collected was used to feed the hungry. In the article "Theater for the benefit of the hungry" it was stated that “The Union of youth of Sarts, Kazakhs and Tatars staged a theatre 5 times. The theater consisted of four sections. Mahmud Kozimov’s one-act play called "Neither agrees nor satisfies" was staged. In the 2nd and 3rd sections, a musical orchestra performed too. In the fourth section, a picture reflecting live hunger was shown, and then it was followed by dances.”<sup>20</sup> In the same issue, an article entitled "Brotherly Support" was published: "A set of books was published under the name "Brotherly Support" for the benefit of the hungry by Muslims and printing and newspaper workers in Tashkent”<sup>21</sup>. It was recommended that everyone should read it.

In the issue 66 of the newspaper on Wednesday, March 6, 1918, the article entitled "Izhori tashakkur" (Expression of thanks) was published: "These days, food prices in Tashkent are rising, and the condition of the poor is getting worse day by day. Even poor people are seen starving to death in the neighborhoods. Taking into account such sad and tragic situation of Muslims, the rich of the neighborhood started to provide the poor of their neighborhood with food. For example, in Sebzor district, the rich people of Pashatkhammom neighborhood collected 15,000 soums and gave 5 soums to each poor person every week. It is said that if the money was given in this way, it would be ensured that they would not starve”<sup>22</sup>.

In the issue 74 of the newspaper, an article entitled "Hunger" was published, in which the issues of the worsening of hunger in Tashkent and the arrival of hungry people from the Fergana Valley and Kazakhstan were analyzed.

Particularly, it was said in the article: "It has been said for a long time that the famine has started in the Turkestan region. In recent days, the number of people suffering from hunger in the old and new cities of Tashkent is increasing day by day. Most of the starving people are coming to Tashkent from Fergana and Kazakhstan. In the old part of Tashkent food and accommodations for the hungry people were organized by the local people.

Canteens were opened by Russians and Tatars in the new part of the city. The line of people coming to these opened kitchens was endless.

Currently, due to famine, the epidemic of typhus, which is spread in different parts of Turkestan, is increasing day by day. Nuriddin Saiful Malik wrote that it was a great evidence that the famine was on the rise”<sup>23</sup>.

In the message given under the topic "Izhori tashakkur" (Expression of thanks) Mulla Ziyavuddin writes: The brothers of “Khan Street” neighborhood of Sebzor District of old Tashkent joined together and donated to feed the poor of this neighborhood every week. They were as follows: 1. Abdulmavlonboy Haji, son of Abdujalilboy Haji and his brothers - 9000 thousand soums. 2. Akramboy Haji, Mahmudhoja-1500 soums. 3. Mulla Shamil Qari-1400 soums. 4. Inoyathoja son of Inomhoja - 1000 soums.”<sup>24</sup>

An article entitled "Margilan" was published on one of the pages of the newspaper. Haji Abdullah wrote with a regret in it: Famine has reached such level here (Margilan). Every day, more than 100 Muslim children are buried in graves due to starvation. There are countless people

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<sup>19</sup> For the benefit of the hungry// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 63

<sup>20</sup> Theatre for the benefit of the hungry// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 65

<sup>21</sup> Brotherly support // Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 65

<sup>22</sup> Izhori Tashakkur (Expression of thanks)// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 66

<sup>23</sup> Starvation//Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 74

<sup>24</sup> Izhori Tashakkur (Expression of thanks) //Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 74

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in the streets, in the bazaars, suffering from hunger, whose faces are yellow, whose bodies are nothing but bones, and who are even bloated from hunger.

You feel sorry for the wives with 2-3 children suffering from starvation. Of course, the remedy for famine can be prevented depending on the actions of our rich people and scientists. The fact that we did not give a hand for help when we saw that situation showed that we are infinitely ignorant. It has been 20 days since the Duma was established in the city of Margilon. But until this day, not a single word has been said in the Duma about helping the hungry people<sup>25</sup>.

Under the heading "News of Turkestan" there was an article entitled "Cholera in Namangan". In the article was reported: In Namangan, cholera prevails at an alarming rate. 100-120 people are dying from cholera every day. The main reason for the increase of this disease is hunger.

Also, in the report entitled "Andijan" it was reported: "Today, 10-15 people die of hunger every day. Council of Andijan Muslim Workers does not help when they see people dying of hunger. We wish our local rich people would help in this regard.

And due to the consequences of famine, taking into account the situation of the people who came from Jizzakh, Oratepa, Zomin, Khoqand and other places, with the initiative of several people, a canteen was opened two months ago and 150-200 hungry people are being fed every day. In order to encourage this good work, performances were staged by theater amateurs. The plays "Unhappy groom" and "Tursunali is my child" were performed. 992 soums 238 pennies from this theater were used to buy food for the hungry." writes the poet Mirmulla Makhmudov<sup>26</sup>. As can be seen from this, it is commendable that amateurs put on theaters and give the proceeds to the hungry.

In the issue 85 of the newspaper "Namangan" on April 20, it was reported: "The level of famine in the city of Namangan is frightening, it must be known to the newspaper readers. Although there are about 100 rich people in our city, there are unfortunately no people who help against hunger.

Mulla Mahmud Aliboev from Namangan said that the amount of money given to the hungry from 4 to 5 soums would be zakat (*(Arabic) alms (prescribed by Islam, usu. 1/40th of one's income)*). Mahmud Aliboev distributed money from his wealth to hungry people as zakat. "Until this day, our local rich have their own factories. It would be better if they help the hungry brothers rather than carrying prostitutes in their expensive carts". Mirgiyos Sadikov wrote with regret that local rich people did not give their helping hand during the hardest famine so that our local rich people should learn from Mulla Mahmud Effendi<sup>27</sup>.

In the report entitled "Many people were fed", 54 pots of plow were prepared and 4911 people were fed in the canteen opened for the hungry in Sheikh Khovandi Tohur by "Jamiyati Khairiya" in Tashkent from March 29 to April 12, 1918<sup>28</sup>.

In the article entitled "Hunger and Cholera in Andijan", the following information is found: A telegram was sent from the Council of Commissars of Tashkent to all the councils belonged to all railway offices in Turkestan by the councils in Andijan: In Andijan 10 districts are also suffering from hunger, cholera, and skin diseases. About 100 people die every day. This message should be distributed to all railway stations. Train tickets to Andijan should not be sold on this occasion. It was suggested that only people living in Andijan could be allowed to return to Andijan<sup>29</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> Margilan //Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 82

<sup>26</sup> Cholera in Namangan// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 84

<sup>27</sup> Namangan"// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 85

<sup>28</sup> Many people were fed// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 87

<sup>29</sup> Hunger and Cholera in Andijan // Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 90

In the newspaper report “Andijan”: It was said that "Community of Help for the Hungry" was established in Andijan to help the hungry. This society helped the hungry in Andijan by collecting money for food<sup>30</sup>.

Another report entitled “Andijan” Mahmud Aliev wrote that a community “Halal Akhmar” was recently established in Andijan by the Community of Help for the Hungry and gathered the hungry in one place. Canteens were opened to help them. Doctors were appointed and treatment centers were established. There was a flag with a picture of a red moon on all four sides of the carts organized by the “Halal Akhmar” community to help the hungry people. Local Muslim youths tied bands with a picture of the red moon on their wrists, and their services to save their religious brothers from the scourge of hunger were incomparable<sup>31</sup>.

In the report entitled "Help to the hungry", it was stated that 3 pots were organized by the rich in the Kokcha district of Tashkent by collecting 65 thousand soums. From March 18 to April, food was given to 2400 citizens every day<sup>32</sup>.

In the literary column of the newspaper, Shakir Khoja describes the famine in Turkestan in the following poem entitled “Victims of the Famine”<sup>33</sup>:

This Turkish nation is oppressed, low, poor, avoiding of all,  
Humiliated, plundered, smell of undropped blood!...  
A terrible famine covered the Muslim world  
Beks destroyed the oppressed poor a lot!!!  
Look, the world is full of all hungry people,  
It is Doomsday in the world! Tears flowed down like a river  
Being afraid of dying from hunger, thousands of bodis in the dreams  
Even in the dreams whomever you see asks for bread  
Hungry naked, no, when orphans moan in the streets  
They beg from heart saying “A sip of water, a piece of bread”!  
Look, the grandfather is standing in the soil,  
He is dying of hunger while lying in bed.!  
Let them lie alone in the ruin,  
Four or five children cry in a dark house,  
Their mother always stays up, giving her soul  
The son is crying, the wife is alone in a courtyard,  
Children are in her bosom being the victims of hunger  
Crying under a great “willow” until they die  
One is crying, one is dead: scary! Oh, my God!..  
If we see a “brave” on some roads, the power will fly!  
What a wife. What a husband!...what an abandoned child!...  
Stones cry!... mountains cry... kind soul...  
No stone hearted man like an animal can stand it!...  
Oh, my God, look at your servants! You are a great helper!...

Is there anyone other than you?! Who can understand the situation of your servant?!

In the article “About food”<sup>34</sup>: On June 5, 1918, 35,000 poods of wheat, 6,255,000 poods of flour, 3,375,000 poods of semolina, and 2,538,000 poods of corn arrived in Krasnovodsk from the

<sup>30</sup> Andijan// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 96

<sup>31</sup> Andijan// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 97

<sup>32</sup> Help to the Hungry// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 99

<sup>33</sup> Victims of the Famine// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 102

<sup>34</sup> About food// Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 103



Caucasus for Turkistan. On June 6, these products in Krasnovodsk were distributed as follows.

1. 1740 poods of flour, 960 poods of semolina, 7200 poods of corn to Sidaryo region.
2. 900 poods of flour, 480 poods of semolina, 3600 poods of corn to Transcaspian region.
3. 920 poods of flour, 480 poods of smolina, 3600 poods of corn to Central Railway Food Committee.
4. 900, 480 poods of semolina, 3600 poods of corn to Samarkand region.
5. 400 poods of flour, 200 poods of smolina, 1700 poods of corn to Skoblev.
6. 400 poods of flour, 200 poods of semolina, 1700 poods of corn to Kokand.
7. 400 poods of flour, 200 poods of semolina, 100 poods of corn to Namangan.
8. 400 poods of flour, 220 poods of smolina, 1700 poods of corn to Andijan.
9. 150 poods of flour, 120 poods of semolina, 600 poods of corn to Osh.

In the same issue of the newspaper, there was an article entitled "Theatre for the benefit of the hungry in Kokand". A Turkish theatre was put by the young local theatre amateurs in the winter building of the theatre. One of our young theater artists, Abdullah bin Amin's own works "Victims of the Famine", "Nationalists" were performed on the stage of the theater. Our young artists skillfully played their roles on stage. Shakir Khoja wrote that the theater was in accordance with the nature of Turkestan<sup>35</sup>.

In the message "To the Food Committees", it was said that the "Food Committees" established on March 25, 1918 were disbanded, the management of food affairs and the entire responsibility was transferred to the "Food Commissioners"<sup>36</sup>.

In the issue 114 of the newspaper, there was an article entitled "Terrible situations in Marki". Particularly: The lack of food in two years put the population of Marki into a piteous situation. Last autumn, winter and early summer, hunger prevailed to such an extent that the people died of hunger. The victims of this famine are almost our Kazakh brothers, according to some reports, 80,000 of our Kazakh brothers died of hunger today. About 40,000 of our Kazakh brothers did not receive help from anyone, and after selling all their goods, they began to sell their dear children as well. Our Kazakh brothers sold 14-15-year-old girls for 30-40 soums and 10-15-year-old boys for 5-10 soums to feed themselves.

It was said that the people of Kashgar took advantage of the fact that the Kazakhs were selling their children because of hunger and got married. In short, the unscrupulous people (Kashghar people) saw these situation though, bought beautiful girls and continued their luxury life having pleasure. At present, some of our Kazakh brothers go out into the fields and live by eating turtles and mice<sup>37</sup>.

In the article entitled "Refugees", a large number of "hungry refugees" began to arrive in Tashkent from Marv and Chorjoi. Their arrival made the problem of accommodation and food more serious in Tashkent. It was said in the article that it would be better if those "hungry refugees" were sent to other cities rather than to Tashkent. It was also said that since Tashkent was the center, many such hungry refugees came here<sup>38</sup>.

In the issue 127 of the newspaper, a message entitled "An order to the whole of Turkestan regarding food" was published. This order stated that the people of Turkestan should allocate a part of their agricultural products to help the hungry<sup>39</sup>.

In the issue 24 of the newspaper "Bashkirdistan News" in 1921, in the article entitled "Only

<sup>35</sup> Theatre for the benefit of the hungry in Kokand // Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 103

<sup>36</sup> To the Food Committees //Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 107

<sup>37</sup> Terrible situations in Marki // Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 114

<sup>38</sup> Refugees // Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 147

<sup>39</sup> An order to the whole of Turkestan regarding food // Ulug Turkestan.1918. № 127

at this time will we withdraw hunger”: Now the cool autumn is approaching, and the heart of the whole people trembles and puts fear in their hearts. Because of hunger, farmers left their homes and started going to Turkestan. It was emphasized that there were many hungry children among those sent to Turkestan during that famine<sup>40</sup>.

In this issue of the newspaper, the article titled "Fight against hunger" said that help for the hungry had come from foreign countries.

It was said that grain was given to Russia from foreign countries for the sake of prosperity. It was noted that every day aids to the hungry from foreign countries arrived at the port of Petrograd<sup>41</sup>.

In the report entitled "Medical education train in Kazan": The medical and education train by the People's Commissars of Public Health did not forget the children of Kazan. They fed the children with food. It was said that food was distributed daily from 10 am to 10 pm. It was reported that the train fed 2,700 hungry children every day<sup>42</sup>.

In the article "In hungry nations" it was stated : "Bori uezd, since the beginning of the census of the hungry this autumn, 6255 people died of starvation in Bori uezd, Ufa province, and 604 of them died. Now a canteen for the children of the district has been opened and 2020 children have been fed"<sup>43</sup>.

In the article entitled "Help to the Hungry", it was said that in the beginning of November, 1 billion sums of money and 19 wagons of food were sent from Petrograd to the Republic of Tatarstan<sup>44</sup>.

In the article "In hungry countries" it was stated: Pugachyov uezd was completely emptied, people began to migrate due to hunger. Most of the stayed are only old people. In Tuman-Eshim uezd, the people went abroad in search of food due to hunger. These hungry people have not been helped. The number of hungry people in Crimea has exceeded 48,000. 67 bodies of people who died of starvation were brought to the city hospital per.

It is noted that until February 10, 1922, 1,740 people died of hunger in Bozovliq district, 40 people died of hunger every month in Usmonovsky district, and the number of people who died of hunger reached 27,000.

"Help to the hungry": the workers of a German steamship that arrived in Petrograd gave 65 million soums of financial aid to the hungry in Russia. The workers of Nikolaevsky railway gave 80 million soums for the hungry.

The Swedish National Assembly provided 1 million kronor to the hungry in Russia from its treasury. Until now, the government of Ankara has given 140,000 poods of meat to the hungry in Russia, the government of Iran has given 51 poods, and Afghanistan has given 100,000 poods of food. In January 1922, Ufa merchants provided 51,480,000 soums of material aid to the hungry<sup>45</sup>.

In the issue 31 of the newspaper, the article entitled "In Bashkirdistan" stated that an order had been issued from the center to distribute all the food and material funds collected by the red commissars for the hungry in Turkestan to the hungry in Kazakhstan and Bashkirdistan<sup>46</sup>.

In the article "Hungry Children", it was said that 150 caregivers took care of hungry

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<sup>40</sup> Only at this time will we withdraw hunger // Bashkirdistan News. 1921. № 24

<sup>41</sup> Fight against hunger // Bashkirdistan News. 1921. № 24

<sup>42</sup> Medical education train in Kazan // Bashkirdistan News. 1921. № 24.

<sup>43</sup> In hungry countries // Bashkirdistan News. 1922. № 11.

<sup>44</sup> Help to the hungry // Bashkirdistan News. 1922. № 12.

<sup>45</sup> <sup>45</sup>In hungry countries, help to the hungry // Bashkirdistan News. 1922. № 26.

<sup>46</sup> In Bashkirdistan // Bashkirdistan News. 1922. № 31.

children in Sarbatsin, and 17,000 hungry children were brought there. There were 270,000 hungry children in the province<sup>47</sup>.

In the issue 13 of the newspaper "Nation's Flag" on December 22, 1917, the article entitled "Food issue", stated that the representatives who were sent to Orenburg for food went to get food for the hungry people of Turkestan<sup>48</sup>.

In the issue 4 of the Ishtrokiyun newspaper in 1918, the report "The food committee of the city of Tashkent announces to all the people", stated that in July, one package of sugar would be given to each person due to the lack of sugar reserves and the fact that it did not come from Russia<sup>49</sup>.

In the issue of the newspaper "Ozod Sibir" on December 14, 1921, in the article entitled "Fight against Hunger", it was mentioned that 250,000 poods of food, 700,000 poods of meat, and 200,000 poods of wheat were collected in Akmullinsky for the hungry people of Kazakhstan. In addition, they gave 7 million soums of money, 270 poods of food to the hungry people of Plavsky (Tulu region), 14 million soums of money and 5 thousand poods of food to the hungry people of the Caucasus.

In September 1921, 12,000 hungry children from the regions of Russia where the famine was raging, 15,000 families in November, and 20,000 hungry people in September were moved to Turkestan.

The fact that foreign countries had given their support to the famine in Russia found its reflection in the newspapers. In particular, Russia received 1 million poods of seeds from America for the hungry. The Swedes delivered two steamships of 425,000 tons (1 ton 20 poods) of seeds. And France sent 4,800 poods of seeds to help the hungry<sup>50</sup>.

In the newspaper "Fergana" in 1921, in the article entitled "Food Policy of the Shura Government": These days, the Shura Government changed its grain policy and took a new way. Now the farmers will give a tenth of their extra grain harvest to the government as a tax. The Shura government took all the extra grain harvest from the farmers<sup>51</sup>.

In the article "Help to the hungry children of Petersburg" it was said that 2000 hungry children were sent to Turkestan by the executive committee of Petersburg.

In addition, in the report "Fight against Hunger", it was said that the chairman of the All-Russian Committee for Hunger Relief, Faminov, had done some necessary work in the fight against hunger. Particularly, he said that bringing 12 million poods of seeds to the uncultivated areas by September was the only measure to eliminate the famine<sup>52</sup>.

In the article entitled "To all workers, farmers and honest people" in the same issue, it was stated that it was very difficult for the farmers of Russia. Due to the drought, crops were not grown in the 11 regions of Soviet Russia, and grass did not grow in the pastures where cattle were raised. It was the cause of the famine.

More than 10 million people, widow women, old people, and children were starving and had to die.

Due to hunger, the people left their places where they lived and went to the places (Turkestan) where they hoped to get food and a piece of bread.

The fact that the people were wandering and leaving their places because of hunger,

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<sup>47</sup> Hungry children // Bashkirdistan News. 1922. № 34.

<sup>48</sup> Food issue // Nation's Flag. 1917. № 13

<sup>49</sup> The food committee of the city of Tashkent announces to all the people // Ishtirokiyun. 1918. № 4

<sup>50</sup> "Fight against hunger" // Ozod Sibir. 1921 № 41.

<sup>51</sup> Food Policy of the Shura Government // Fergana. 1921. № 25

<sup>52</sup> Help to the hungry children of Petersburg // Fergana. 1921. № 30

certainly made the situation worsen in the regions where they had gone.

About 10,000 people were dying of various infectious diseases due to hunger. Agriculture in the Ural regions, which fed 10 million people, was completely destroyed. The fact that crops were not planted in the areas that had been abandoned led to worsen the situation more.

This scourge of hunger was imposed on the entire Volga (Edil) and the entire republic of the Soviets.

It was said that urgent help of the entire nation could save the people of the Edil (Volga) region from starvation and the loss of agriculture<sup>53</sup>.

In the article entitled "The matter that cannot be delayed" in the issue 31 of the newspaper, it was stated that the Soviet government and the working people of all Russia had a very difficult task that should not be delayed at the time: it was also mentioned that the millions of hungry people along the Edil (Volga) in Russia could be saved from death, and the economy could be saved from collapse. At the time, it 12 million poods of grain were needed for the starving people by September 1. Because there was no rain, crops did not grow in those regions. It was the time to plant autumn crops. It was said that if autumn crops were not planted due to starvation, it would be very difficult to get rid of starvation. It was said that food tax should be collected from the farmers of Turkestan as soon as possible in order to give 12 million poods of seeds and the grain tax should have to be postponed<sup>54</sup>.

In the report "The hungry will be accommodated": the emergency affairs commission in Samarkand made an offer to accept 5 thousand hungry children from the province orphanages, and 5 thousand hungry children were moved to Samarkand<sup>55</sup>.

In the report entitled "Help to the hungry on the Edil (Volga)" in Turkestan, on June 30, 1921, the union of medical affairs decided to allocate half a package of bread and 10% of their salary to the hungry of the Edil (Ural) region every day for two weeks<sup>56</sup>.

"Horse Players for the Hungry" Tashkent Government Horse Trainers' Union decided to hold horse games for the benefit of the hungry on Mondays. It was said that there were various lottery games on the days of the horse games<sup>57</sup>. The collected money was given to help the hungry. In the report entitled "The Hungry of Avliyoota Uezd" it was stated that the week of helping the hungry started in Avliyoota Uezd. The week of helping the hungry was very enthusiastic. Concerts and theaters were held and all the collected money was given to the hungry<sup>58</sup>.

In the report entitled "Help to the Hungry" it was stated that at the suggestion of the Turkestan Central Bureau of Land Works, the households of the Shura government decided to allocate 2 poods of grain from each desyatina (6 tanob) for the benefit of the hungry. So that 40,000 poods of grain would be collected<sup>59</sup>.

In the reports entitled "Grain will be sent to the hungry" and "Cadets to the hungry" it was stated that 31 wagons of grain in Kattakurgan were sent to the hungry. The military cadets in Samarkand decided to allocate one package of bread and five packages of rice to each person for the hungry people of Russia<sup>60</sup>.

In the article entitled "From the Provincial Committee for Helping the Hungry" in this issue of the

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<sup>53</sup> To all workers, farmers and honest people // Fergana.1921. № 30

<sup>54</sup> The matter that cannot be delayed // Fergana. 1921. №31

<sup>55</sup> The hungry will be accommodated // Fergana. 1921. №31

<sup>56</sup> Help to the hungry on the Edil (Volga)//Fergana. 1921. №31

<sup>57</sup> Horse Players for the Hungry // Fergana. 1921. №33

<sup>58</sup> The Hungry of Avliyoota Uezd // Fergana. 1921. №33

<sup>59</sup> Help to the Hungry // Fergana. 1921. №34

<sup>60</sup> Grain will be sent to the hungry //Fergana. 1921. №34

newspaper, the following rules for the people of Kokand helping the hungry were announced:

1. From August 1, 1921, before the shows in the theaters, after the speaker speaks about helping the hungry and collects money by walking around with a "box".
2. On Sunday, August 14, 1921, from 6 o'clock, public meetings with music are held in some places of the old city.
3. On August 14-15 and 16, 1921, people collect money with boxes in markets and teahouses.
4. On August 19 and 26, 1921 (on Fridays), food is collected in the old part of the city.
5. All the meetings are preceded by concerts and meetings.

It can be seen from this that in all cities of Turkestan, such measures were taken to help the hungry along the Volga<sup>61</sup>.

In issue 35 of the newspaper N. Mansurov published an article entitled "Help the hungry". It stated that from August 10 to August 26 (1921), the hungry were helped in two weeks in the city of Kokand. It was the duty of everyone who had a sense of humanity to help in whatever way they could during the week of helping for the hungry.

10 million people living in the region of the Edil (Volga) river faced famine due to lack of rain. The Soviet government changed for help to the peoples along the Edil River. It was noted that the starving people there suffered from various infectious diseases. If they did not start work urgently, crops would not be planted in 11 regions of those regions in autumn. It was a tragedy for the government to have such a situation. It showed that problems in economic life would not be solved in the coming years.

Both Russia and the Soviet government have organized commissions in the center to help the hungry in the regions. These commissions have done a lot serious measures to reduce hunger and to help the hungry.

In every city and even in villages, boarding schools were opened for hungry children came from hungry regions of Russia, and they were fed with food. The red military troops of the Soviet government also allocated part of their salaries to help the hungry.

The workers and the farmers were diligent and zealous in carrying out the duties assigned to them in saving the hungry from starvation. In addition, it was necessary to give seeds to the hungry regions, so that collecting the grain should not be forgotten<sup>62</sup>.

In the issue 36 of the newspaper entitled "Fergana", the following information was given: "On August 21, 1921, the following money was collected from the performance organized by the Muslim theater. Including from ticket sales: 921,830 thousand soums, from lottery: 1,156,930 thousand soums, from buffet: 371,635 soums, from other works: 3,435 soums, a total of 2,793,905 thousand soums was collected to help the hungry<sup>63</sup>.

Also, in a news item entitled "In Turkistan" in the same issue, it was stated that there were many in Avliyoota and other cities who came from famine areas. There was a task in front of the executive committee to place hungry children from Russian regions in villages and shelters<sup>64</sup>.

In the report "A place where the hunger reigned", it was revealed at the meeting of the city council in Samara that the total number of hungry people was 140,000 adults and 900,000 children<sup>65</sup>.

In the report entitled "For the Benefit of the Hungry" in the issue 39 of the newspaper, the Commission for Aid to the Hungry in the Cities of Turkestan decided to collect taxes from

<sup>61</sup> From the Provincial Committee for Helping the Hungry // Fergana. 1921. №34

<sup>62</sup> Help the hungry// Fergana. 1921. №35

<sup>63</sup> Fergana // Fergana. 1921. №36

<sup>64</sup> In Turkestan //Fergana. 1921. №38

<sup>65</sup> A place where the hunger reigned //Fergana. 1921. №38

merchants for the aid of the Russian hungry as follows. In particular, 1 pound from per pood of the grain sold in the market, 3 pounds from a cart of melons, and 3 thousand soums from liquid goods were charged.

In another report entitled "Help to the hungry", it was said that farmers in Chernyaev district gave 1 pound of wheat to the hungry people of<sup>66</sup>.

In the report entitled "In Khiva", the committee of the hungry started collecting aid for the hungry in Khiva. 8 million soums were reported to be collected from the people for the hungry<sup>67</sup>.

700 poods of grain were collected in Konibodom for the hungry of Russia and sent to Tashkent quickly. In the report "From Besharik" it was said that 1,731,100 thousand soums of money, 15 poods of grain were sent for the hungry, and 5 million soums of money were collected in the city of Fergana<sup>68</sup>.

In the report entitled "On the issue of settling children" in the issue 41 of the newspaper, it was mentioned that the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian government decided to settle 20,000 hungry children from the famine regions of Russia in different places. It was noted that the Children's Aid Commission fed 5,000 hungry children with food for 6 months and provided them with a home<sup>69</sup>.

It is said that 7 million soums and 410 poods of wheat were collected for the benefit of the hungry in Ishq Abad (Poltaransky) district, and 17 million soums were collected for the hungry in Samarkand<sup>70</sup>.

In the article "Boarding school needs to be looked at", it was said that the boarding school opened in Konibodom was taking and educating hungry children who were struggling for a piece of bread on the streets. A certain part of those hungry children who were transferred from the regions of Russia were also placed in this boarding school<sup>71</sup>.

Until September 12, 1921, 22.5 million poods of grain were collected for the hungry of Russia. 60,000 soums of money were collected for the hungry people of Russia with the help of the commission for the aid of the hungry in the Fergana Valley. On September 7-11, they sent 1,800 poods of grain to the Central Aid Commission operating in Tashkent<sup>72</sup>.

In September 1921, 5,000 hungry children from Russian territories were settled in Ishqabad (Poltaransky) district<sup>73</sup>.

The residents of Fergana Valley did not spare their help to the hungry and hungry children who were transferred from Russia while they were experiencing hunger. In addition, Turkestan sent grain, food and various products necessary for life to the hungry people of Russia. In particular, in Kokand city, the aid commission for the hungry sent 2 wagons of food and 8 poods of wheat to the aid commission for the hungry every time. There given information about the arrival of 330 hungry refugees from the regions of Russia to Kokand city.

7 Russian villages from Jalalabad sent 500 poods of grain, 100 poods of food, and 5,500,000 soums for the hungry. 31 million soums were collected from Namangan city. 14 million soums of money and 5 wagons of food were sent from Andijan. 150 hungry refugees are said to

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<sup>66</sup> For the Benefit of the Hungry //Fergana. 1921. №39

<sup>67</sup> In Khiva //Fergana. 1921. №39

<sup>68</sup> From Besharik//Fergana. 1921. №40

<sup>69</sup> On the issue of settling children // Fergana. 1921. №41

<sup>70</sup> Ishq Abad // Fergana. 1921. №41

<sup>71</sup> Boarding school needs to be looked at // Fergana. 1921. №41

<sup>72</sup> In Russia//// Ferganaa. 1921. №44

<sup>73</sup> Settlement of children// Fergana. 1921. №44

come to Andijan from the regions of Russia<sup>74</sup>.

In addition, 4,500,000 soums of money, 6,000 pieces of cloth, 500 poods of seeds, 1,500 poods of various foods, soap, salt, and kerosene were also collected from Khojand. 10 of the hungry refugee children were said to be there in Khojand<sup>75</sup>.

The Food Committee of the Fergana Valley decided to form “triads” in Andijan, Osh, Margilan, Kokand, Namangan, and Khojand districts, and this structure would control food affairs<sup>76</sup>.

In the article "Young children in the city" it was noted that as in all the cities of Turkestan, there were many young barefoot and hungry children in the cities of Fergana. And their control, education should be concerned. The majority of those hungry children were non-Muslim children, and the crime among them was increasing<sup>77</sup>.

In the article “Arrival of Hungry Children” it was stated that 200 hungry children from the Republic of Bashkirdistan were brought to Tashkent and in November, a wagon of hungry children were brought to Tashkent from the Republic of Kazakhstan<sup>78</sup>.

The article entitled “The current situation along the Edil (Volga) River” stated about the outbreak of a terrible famine on the Volga River and the neglect of starving naked children. It was noted that people from those places had left their native lands and gone to other countries. The negative consequences of the arrival of hungry children in Turkestan were also mentioned. It was reminded that measures should be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in Turkestan by the arrival of the hungry children.

... “The eyes of the people who were suffering from hunger and death do not see anything”... Thus, in our Turkestan, a hard and terrible situation will arise. Therefore, it is necessary to help the hungry people of Russia who are facing famine through various measures. In this way, it is possible to get rid of this scourge of famine...”<sup>79</sup>. But the people of Turkestan were also experiencing this famine.

In conclusion, it can be said that the problem of famine in Turkestan, the transfer of hungry people and hungry children from the regions of Russia to the country, and the activities of anti-hunger committees were not left out of the attention of the periodical presses. It is commendable that these issues were always covered on the pages of the press.

Today, more than 20 local periodicals are waiting for their researchers in the "Rare publications" section of the National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi. Studying the valuable historical information given on the pages of the press is one of the important tasks in front of us, the historians

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<sup>74</sup> In Fergana province// Fergana. 1921. №48

<sup>75</sup> Khojand// Fergana. 1921. №48

<sup>76</sup> Food affairs// Fergana. 1921. №48

<sup>77</sup> Young children in the city// Fergana. 1921. №48

<sup>78</sup> Arrival of hungry children// Fergana. 1921. №59

<sup>79</sup> The current situation along the Edil River // Fergana. 1921. № 59