

STARVING REFUGEES.

WEALTHY MEN WHO HAVE LOST EVERYTHING.

By **PERCIVAL PHILLIPS.**

"Express" Special Correspondent.

SFAX, Friday, Oct. 6.

Weary, half-starved refugees from Tripoli are still pouring into Sfax, and the European population of the town has increased by nearly one-fourth.

This invasion is sorely trying the resources of the authorities at the foreign agencies, who are daily besieged for food and shelter by the refugees, some of whom were wealthy shopkeepers at Tripoli, but are now in a condition of beggary.

The British Benevolent Society is feeding hundreds of Maltese refugees, and has arranged to quarter them in a disused oil-mill on the outskirts of the town.

The other exiles, who total 1,500 in all, include Italians, Greeks, and Jews.

All the British refugees were of the better class of Tripolitans. Some made inventories of their possessions and deposited the books at one of the consulates with the intention of claiming compensation. Most of them have lost everything. The later departures from Tripoli confirm the stories of native looting.

The luckiest refugee brought £1,200 in cash with him, but the majority have not even extra clothes.

Two sailing vessels laden with refugees, many of whom are said to be British, were refused permission to disembark at Jerba, and are reported to be sailing up the coast to Sfax.

Every shipload of exiles has arrived in a famished condition, having eaten everything on board.

Six Franciscan fathers among the refugees to whom I was able to talk emphasised the intense anti-Christian feeling among the natives.

"After the declaration of war," I was told, "the natives openly expressed their determination to attack when the Italians ventured beyond the city confines.

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