

Social Responsibility In Action

Lessons for Today Gained from America's Experience as the Greatest Welfare Worker

SERVICE WITH FIGHTING MEN .. Article One..

IN practically every community of America are individuals and organizations concerned with welfare work. The American people lead the world in their active interest in humanitarian effort. They expressed it in unprecedented measure in the Great Conflict. The lessons then learned are important for present and future application, in peace or war. For all who have not opportunity to study the comprehensive analysis of social responsibility in action recently published under the title, "Service with Fighting Men," with William Howard Taft as chairman of its editorial board, this newspaper publishes this series of articles. It is sought herein to summarize principles and programs set forth in the two-volume report.

THE conflict of nations resulting in the World War still goes on. Silent struggles, and those behind closed doors, are no less serious than those which headlines reveal—Poland under martial law; Armenia ravaged and Smyrna destroyed; Constantinople a smoking bomb; Jugo-Slavia drawing her sword with her eyes on Saloniki.

All who seriously sense social responsibility seek to discover for today's guidance the lessons of the immediate past. National and even local problems are now world problems; and basic to all human readjustment—transcending in fundamental importance even political agreements—is service directed definitely to human need, in whatever form, at home and abroad.

Young men, old men, women, and children in a lesser degree, in various parts of the world, in our own country as well as abroad, are even now facing the same kind of problems as did our fighting men. Hard-driven human beings in any momentous life suffer as did the prisoners of war. Wherever young men in large groups are separated from the influence of home, from the companionship of women and the stimulating dependence of children, they are surrounded by the same kind of disintegrating forces as bore upon fighting men. The youth of the new-born nations like Poland and Czechoslovakia, which are among those where the American Association is still at work, are moving in the same vague and disquieting uncertainties as surrounded every extraordinary adventure of the armies.

We need again to stimulate our courage and refresh our hope by study of the unlimited possibilities that lie in the action of a great nation aroused to a high social obligation.

social responsibility which gripped the heart of America.

Thus began what Chief Justice Taft describes as "one of the greatest achievements of peace in all the history of human warfare." While the armies of France were fighting on their own soil and the main British forces but three hours from home, we were to operate an array of

2,000,000 men 3,000 miles from our eastern shores. America saw that the effort must be not only to send men properly trained and equipped but with as many of the humanizing elements of home life as possible. The first real success in carrying these influences into the lives of fighting men must be credited to Florence Nightingale's work for the British soldiers in the Crimea. Due to this, America, entering the World War, found ready to service the American Red Cross, experienced in all varieties of relief work. She discovered, too, that she possessed an organization which for fifty years had served young men in city, town, camp, field and at sea.

The Y. M. C. A. had already had experience with fighting men through the Christian Commission in the Civil War, under its own organization in the Spanish-American War, and from that time on by Special

Act of Congress in the Army and Navy posts. Also in the first three years of the World War, the American Association had served with the associations of the Allies on the front and in the prison camps. Behind this war organization and experience, it had in America a trained personnel of some 5,000, and working organizations built to serve young men in every important community in the country. It was natural that this institution should be called upon to lead in welfare.

The welfare organizations of America drew on experience as they proceeded to surround the men in the American camps and cities with those social recreations and religious activities which were part and parcel of their home life. The great unsolved problem, the new strange field, was service with soldiers and sailors.

These organizations gathered with the boys at the railroad stations at

home, traveled with them to the cantonments, offered facilities for entertainment, education, social contact and religion in the concentration camp, journeyed with them on the transports going overseas and,

under the supervision of the Army and Navy, were with them in the training camps in France and under shell fire toward the front. Under Army supervision, the Y. M. C. A. also organized leave areas for intensive rest and recuperation; and, wherever American troops were assigned, the West Indies, the Islands of the Mediterranean, north of the Arctic Circle at Archangel, across the Pacific at Honolulu, Manila, to

Vladivostok, and into the heart of Russia. The spirit of America as exhibited during the war through the great civilian services of relief and welfare was not directed to her own sons alone. It extended aid in men and money to the Young Men's Christian Associations of the Allied forces and services into armies where no such enterprise was known. Above all, ministrations of comfort and cheer were brought to 6,000,000 men shut up behind the barbed wire of prison camps, compelled to spend months and years subject to the strain of monotonous confinement. How these civilian services in the war were carried out and what their lessons for present-day conditions are shown in subsequent articles.



These illustrations show the wide range of welfare activities—at left, top, a group of enlisted men being instructed in the automobile engine; at right soldiers getting "smokes"; center, left, football as part of athletic program; center, religious services at the front; right, a group of doughboys costumed for theatricals; below, at play in leave area; soldiers in line at cafeteria.

THE NEW NOTE IN APPAREL

CHARACTER SKETCHES BY A. RUSSELL

THE DISCRIMINATING DEVOTEE OF FASHION WILL WEAR (AMONG OTHER THINGS) A BANDANA HANDKERCHIEF, IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS WHEN GOING TO THE BUTCHER'S, THIS CHARMING GARMENT SHOULD ADORN THE HEAD, AS PICTURED ON THE LEFT. LATER IN THE DAY, SAY AROUND 11:15 OR 11:30, IT MAY BE DRAPED THUSLY (SEE ABOVE)

IN THE AFTERNOON IT SHOULD BE ADJUSTED AS SHOWN HERE, PARTICULARLY SO IF THE EXERTIONS OF THE MORNING HAVE PRODUCED A HEADACHE

THE ULTRA SMART MANNER OF WEARING THE GARMENT IS EITHER AROUND THE HAT, OR, IF YOU HAVE NO HAT, AROUND THE WRIST, SO PARIS INFORMS US.

THIS WILL BE A RATHER SLIM SEARCH FOR MOSQUITOES AND OTHER INSECTS, TO JUDGE BY THE DROOPING DRAPERIES OF THE SUMMER BONNETS.

A SLIGHT SHAKE OF THE HEAD, EVERY 2 OR 3 MINUTES, WILL MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR THESE PESTS (THE MOSQUITOES)

THE CULTURED WOMAN WILL WEAR HER BEADS VERY TIGHTLY THIS SUMMER, AND AROUND THE NECK.

THE MUFF MAY BE WORN AROUND THE THROAT THIS SEASON AND IS CALLED, IN THAT CASE, A CHOKER.

THERE ARE JUST THREE THINGS YOU MUST WEAR IF YOU WISH TO APPEAR WELL DRESSED, AN OSTRICH FEATHER, A RHINESTONE HEADRESS AND A DOLL CONTAINING ROUGE, LIP-STICK, CHEWING GUM AND CAR FARE HOME.

THE YOUNG LADY WHOSE EARS GET TIRED EASILY MAY HAVE HERS BUILT SO THAT THEY WILL REST ON HER SHAPELY SHOULDERS

THE SEAMSTRESS OUT-DOORS IS BEING BROUGHT INDOORS, THANKS TO THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF THE DESIGNERS OF THE MODE OF THE MOMENT.

CAPIES ARE SLIGHTLY CIRCULAR IN CUT THIS YEAR AND THEREFORE BECOMING TO THOSE SLIGHTLY CIRCULAR IN BUILD.

EARRINGS WILL BE WORN LARGE THIS YEAR. EYES WE SAID LARGE. THE SLEAZY WOMAN MAY REDUCE BY USING HERS IN PLACE OF DUMBBELLS.