

AMERICAN WORKERS TYPIFY NEW PROJECT

Red Cross League of Nations
to Be Made Official.

CLEARING HOUSE PROVIDED

Activities of Altruistic Outreach of
United States Meet in
Eternal City.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.
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ROME—As of old all roads led to Rome, so today the Eternal City is a meeting place for the tides and forces and agencies which the peace conference is sending all over the earth. One gets here an actual demonstration of America's part in reaching out to all the world in order to reshape the order of human life. Every day, in the hotels, on the streets, at the U. S. C. A., where guides and information are furnished free to Americans in uniform, one sees a succession of soldiers, sailors, nurses, Red Cross workers and relief representatives who are bound somewhere at the behest of the American spirit.

In less public ways may be discovered state department men and civilian representatives of other branches of the government, who are passing through Rome to the near east upon some phase of the great American quest. They are the eyes and ears and hands of the peace commissioners sitting in Paris. For what the conference knows is not at all dependent upon what is said by the delegations which present their special claims.

It may be publicly reported that a Red Cross mission has gone to the Balkans; but Rome visualizes the personnel and the task. A procession of officers and workers seems to be passing through the city. In the busy office of Colonel Henry M. Anderson, head of the Balkan mission, one learns that already scores of representatives, as well as shiploads of supplies, have gone to Roumania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Near East Is for America.
At the moment another Red Cross delegation, No. 10, bound for Palestine, is passing through, as well as a food commission for Constantinople, headed by Mr. Howard Heinz of Pennsylvania, and a relief commission led by Dr. James L. Barton of Boston.

These scores of alert, tireless night-keepers in Rome, each wearing some one of the many distinctive American uniforms, typify the real explanation for the country's marvelous vogue in the near east. While continental statesmen are conferring and contriving and conspiring for the advantage of their nations in these older parts of earth the Americans are equally diligent in discovering ways of helping the peoples of this needy region. There has been of late such an intensification of the practical side of the big brother diplomacy of America that no village in the Balkans or in Turkey is without knowledge that the Americans are running to and fro with hearts full of good will and hands full of helpfulness. The ideals of the president are being substantiated by the ministry of his country.

That is why the masses of eastern Europe and western Asia are fairly making a religion of the Wilson principles, coining them into native words similar to "Wilsonian." In the face of a vast unrest that is potential bolshevism these ideals of democracy are giving both expression and direction to popular movements. Incidentally, one quickly finds that the laboring classes here will support the American position at Paris even to the abandonment of their own governmental policies. Every Red Cross nurse is an illustration of the workability of the American diplomacy of good will.

Red Cross League Plan.
Everything in this suggests parallelism or contrasts with ancient history, and this invasion of the near east by the welfare workers from the west calls to mind the vast different forces of conquest which have marched through Rome, and all its adjacent historic highways and regions, in the centuries long gone. An orator could wax grandiloquent in comparing the victories of the Caesars or of Alexander or of Cyrus or of Mohammed with those already achieved by the simple American principle that a strong nation owes good will and service and helpfulness to every weak nation, but has no right to exact a foot of territory or other privilege from it.

Up to the present writing there has been no public announcement of a vast project that is being considered in the highest quarters for the reduction into organized form of these many American projects of benevolence. It is nothing less than a Red Cross league of nations, to safeguard any region or people from such a fate as has in the past befallen Serbia, Poland, Armenia and sections of China. It contemplates an official organization of what is today only a semi-official popular philanthropy.

Briefly outlined, the plan is to create at Geneva, Switzerland, a permanent international Red Cross headquarters. This would be officially recognized by all the nations and supported by them on a proportional basis. Each country would contribute to an annual Red Cross fund or reserve, perhaps on some such basis as 1 cent per capita of population. This would provide adequate official funds for meeting any such emergency as fire, earthquake, famine or pestilence. In case of a calamity of extraordinary magnitude, such as this war has revealed, funds would be secured from other nations, but on a national guarantee of repayment, as was the case of the Belgian food commission. No country would ask aims of another, but only good will and fraternal cooperation.

Private Relief to End.
Revolutionary changes within the realm of philanthropy are involved in this proposal, which may have been announced officially before this article is printed in America. Hitherto America has been the happy hunting ground for all "causes." Every representative of a needy anywhere, from the soft-eyed Syrian or Armenian, with a tale of atrocities among his people, to the ambitious society woman who is a lobbyist in Serbia or Poland or France, could get consideration and cash from America.

The thing has reached scandalous proportions, because of the many fraudulent or mismanaged charities which have gleaned American millions during the war. The shrewd promoter had only to collect a few good names—the bearer thereof being willing to leave the management entirely in the hands of the men and women who were profiting from the proceeds—and issue affecting literature, in order to extract enormous sums from the generous American public.

If the Geneva Red Cross project goes through there will be an end of these private organizations, honest and dishonest. Money will go not according to the skill of the propagandist, but according to the needs of the cause. Every appeal will be officially investi-

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Internationalizing Welfare Work.

At Geneva will be maintained an international clearing-house for scientific investigation of diseases and public health. The Rockefeller institute and similar bodies are expected to cooperate. Social hygiene in all its forms—tuberculosis, pneumonia and bubonic plague, cancer, influenza—will be studied on a scale hitherto unattempted, with the resources of civilization's science at the command of the Red Cross. Child welfare and other kindred questions will be, as far as possible, standardized.

In a word, the basic principle of the league of nations—that we are all members, one of another, and that the whole has a responsibility for every part and every part for the whole—is to be applied to what in America is known as welfare work. Instead of the indifference, heartlessness and ruthlessness of the Oriental or old eastern European manner of life, wherein the poor had few rights and less consideration, there will be maintained a system of co-operation, oversight and service that will go far to heal many of the open sores of the world.

Naturally, this project originates in America. It is at the moment under consideration in highest quarters. Like the other altruistic ideals which have come to dominance in the peace conference, it has for its exponents and advocates the men and women who during the war have set an entirely new standard for human service the world around. The idea is that which is already embodied by the hundreds of welfare workers who are streaming through Rome to the remotest parts of the near east.

Hear Dr. Pence's Sunday morning sermon series on "The Master of Men in Action," starting today at Westminster Presbyterian church. Take Broadway or Irvington cars.—Adv.

Plan is to Raise \$140,000,000 in
Ten Days Beginning May 18.

Owing to the various sums which have been announced, the public mind has been somewhat confused as to the exact sum of money to be raised by

the Methodist centenary during the 10 days commencing May 18.

The total for the Methodist Episcopal church is \$105,000,000. The total for the Methodist Episcopal Church south is \$35,000,000, making a grand united Methodist centenary total of \$140,000,000.

000 divided in pledges over five years. Originally the boards of home and foreign missions of the Methodist Episcopal church planned to raise \$80,000,000 to be divided equally between the two boards. The home board plans to expend its share in erecting community

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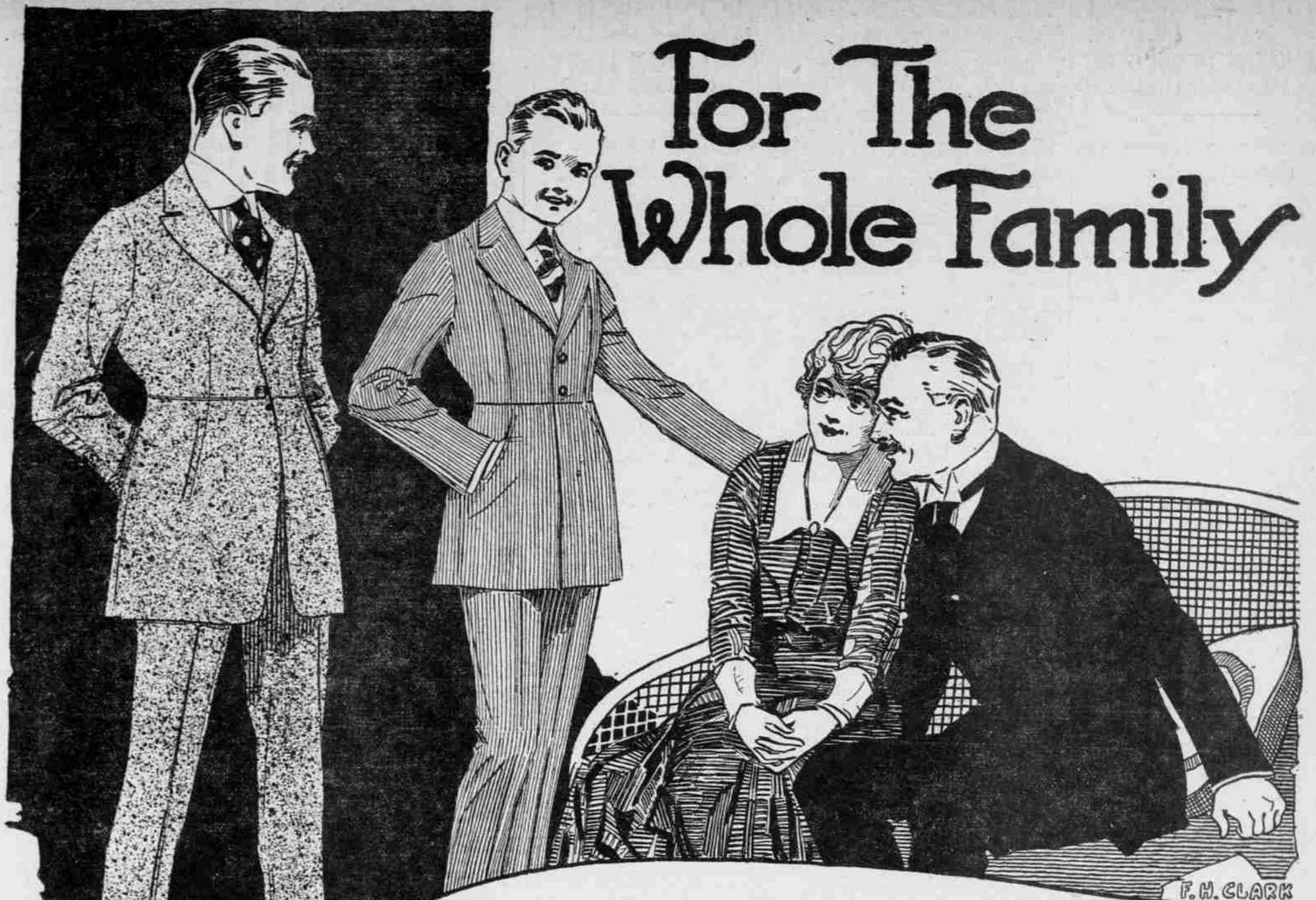
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