

## AMERICA'S WOMEN JOINED IN ANTHEM OF SERVICE

Millions of Red Cross Workers Do Multitude of Little Things at Home Which Enable Our Boys to Do Great Things in France.

Under the banner of the Red Cross, American women are working in homes, churches, clubs, schools, shops, theaters, factories, hospitals and in thousands of Red Cross work-rooms. The hum of sewing machines, the whizz of muslin torn to accurate strips, the rat-tat-tat of volunteer typewriters, the purr of boiling kettles in canteens, the rumbling of automobiles of the Motor Corps, the soft click of knitting needles in lonely cabins and farm-houses, all blend into a great anthem of service.

About 8,000,000 women working through Red Cross Chapters and branches are making with their hands relief supplies—surgical dressings, knitted articles, hospital and refugee garments—or working as volunteers, subject to any call day or night, at 500 railroad stations throughout the country and at the ports of embarkation, or serving in volunteer Motor Corps. Truly here is an army with banners—banners of a red cross on a white field.

For the period up to the first of July, 1918, American Red Cross Chapters, through their work-rooms, had produced 192,748,107 surgical dressings, 10,134,501 knitted articles, 10,786,489 hospital garments and other hospital supplies and refugee garments, making a total of 221,282,838 articles of an estimated aggregate value of at least \$44,000,000.

Last spring during the Red Cross war fund drive, when thousands of women workers in cities in every state formed their great symbolic processions, those who looked on saw them as the representatives of all our American women working in this war, and heard in "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" to which they marched, the

varied sounds of all their eager labor. The things they made, which carried a message of love from the women of this country, quite apart from their great money value, went from their work-rooms on great adventures. They have gone into front line trenches, to emergency hospitals in foreign villages and into the most modern operating rooms. They have wrapped lost and frightened children in warmth and sheltered aged refugees from the cold. They have gone overseas into strange and sad places, into Russia and Serbia and Palestine and Italy and France. They have gone into our own huge cantonments for our own young soldiers.

The Department of Nursing of the American Red Cross is the great recruiting agency of the United States Army and Navy Nurse Corps. By the first of October it had assigned over 18,000 graduate nurses to active military service at home and abroad. It has provided over 700 nurses for the Federal Public Health Service and the Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service, which co-operates with the local health boards in the communities which it serves.

The statement of the Home Service of the American Red Cross to all of our fighting men that it is prepared to help in any emergency that may arise in their homes—help in legal ways, medical ways, business ways, friendship ways—would not be possible without the vision and the active co-operation of thousands of American women. In every division of the Red Cross, from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico, they have seen this service as the elemental right due from the American people to their defenders.

### BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT.

What finer Christmas gift could the American people give to a stricken world than the announcement on Christmas Eve that the entire nation has answered the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call. It would signify to the

starving, sick and homeless that our humanity does not depend upon the excitement of war, but that neighborliness is just as strong in us in times of peace. A unanimous response will hearten the whole world.

### MONEY NOT THE OBJECT.

Our obligation to our own soldiers and sailors and the privilege of ministering to the sick and wounded, of feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and rebuilding the waste places of our country in the war, call the en-

tire American people to the support of the Red Cross spirit now as never before. The money to be raised in membership dues is secondary. It is the spiritual phase that is important, for it will show the suffering people of the world that the American people will see them through their experience to the very end.

## ALLIES ARE FED BY SELF DENIAL

Generous Doing Without in America Supplied Food to Europe.

Exports from this country since it entered the war have kept starvation from Allied Europe and have maintained the health and strength of those who have been bearing the brunt of our battles, so that they could hold out to victory. Now that hostilities have ceased we must assume the added burden of keeping starvation from increasing its toll upon the millions who have been liberated from the Prussian yoke. Famine would undo the work which has been accomplished in freeing the world for democracy. No stable government can be established and maintained by a nation harassed by hunger. A starving people turns to rioting and anarchy. Food has given strength and courage to the nations fighting for democracy; it must now give the nations strength and tranquillity to re-establish themselves in freedom and democracy.

Without our help it would have been absolutely impossible for the Allies to maintain a living ration. Since our entry into the war we have been contributing largely to the support of one hundred and twenty million people whose normal food supplies have been cut off, whose production has fallen almost to the vanishing point, whose fields have been devastated by Germany. The food exported from the United States in the past year has been sufficient to supply the complete ration of twenty-two million people.

It is hard to grasp the magnitude and significance of the assistance which has been lent the Allies by the patriotic, voluntary service of the American people. The food we sent abroad last year would have been sufficient to feed one-fifth of our population. And this was done in spite of the fact that we entered the year with short crops. Our surplus was practically nothing. An overwhelming proportion of the food that left this country last year was saved out of the normal home consumption of our own people.

In spite of difficulties met in international transportation and shortage of ocean tonnage our food exports last year amounted to a figure that a few years ago would have been unbelievable. Even the most optimistic element of our population faced with anxious consternation the prospect which opened before us with the beginning of the 1917 harvest year.

The American people have not been compelled to save. They have been appealed to on the basis of humanity and of patriotism. They have responded voluntarily.

### WHAT HOME SERVICE MEANS.

So many questions are constantly coming to the Home Service Section of the Red Cross that a few words as to its objects may not come amiss. The Home Service Section aims to serve the folks at home, to bring them nearer to the man in the field, and to bring him nearer to the ones at home. Sometimes it means helping to straighten out a financial tangle, sometimes help in the training of the children, sometimes being a big brother to a young lad who needs a bit of friendly counsel, or advising a young wife who may be worried about the coming due of the mortgage and what her rights under the law may be.

Then, too, there are sometimes delays in the mails or lost letters, and sometimes delays in the allotment, or errors in the amount which should be forthcoming. These problems and many others are being straightened out by the Home Service Section, without charge to the families, and with an efficiency which is daily growing more valuable. More than 300,000 calls have been answered.

For those who are worried because of the non-arrival of letters a cable is sent inquiring about the man's welfare.

In fact the Home Service Section is living up to its name—it is really the service of those at home—it is trying to be the father, brother or husband to those left behind.

### FRENCH AUTHORITIES ACCLAIM WORK OF AMERICAN RED CROSS.

Dr. Chassaigne of the French Military Sanitary Service and M. Goyon in recent addresses paid warm tribute to the work of the American Red Cross in the war, and M. Autrand, prefect of the Department of the Seine, praised the personal efforts of Red Cross workers.

"Your task is not ended," said M. Autrand. "Our friends and our benefactors now are more than ever indispensable to us. Our task is immense. Help us. We have known how to vanquish; we will know how to organize ourselves in victory."

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