

WHAT COUNTRY MUST DO FOR ITS DISABLED SOLDIERS

Problems of Reconstruction Confront American Red Cross With New Tasks and New Responsibilities.

During these Christmases, when men in the trenches and on mined seas sing carols; when our country glows to its uttermost boundaries with the symbol of the Red Cross; when the most earthbound look for awhile at the crosses and the stars—new understandings, new simplicities, new willingness for service come to very many men and women.

And as our soldiers and sailors who went out young and strong and singing the "Long, Long Trail" and "Over There" now come back crippled and disabled, Americans are seeing more and more their own part and responsibility in reconstruction. This work means teaching the blind to see, giving movement to the paralyzed, power to the remnants of arms and legs to do full duty, the chance of health to the tubercular, light to minds befogged by shell shock.

Our government, the Medical Department of the Army and the American Red Cross, from the time of our entrance in the war, have been working out the tasks preparatory to this reconstruction, which is the key-word to their usefulness and happiness. The work itself is already begun in the hospitals where our returned men have been brought.

This has meant the equipment of hospitals, the recruiting of the doctors and nurses and the formulation of plans for training for vocations, which means independence, replacing activity for inactivity.

For this physical reconstruction in our military hospitals at home, our government, through the office of the Surgeon-General, is asking for reconstruction aids. This hospital service is open to hundreds, indeed thousands, of women who as wives of men in the service have been technically barred from other military hospital service. They are needed at once and may learn full particulars regarding training, qualifications, pay and so forth by writing for information to the office of the Surgeon-General, Division of Reconstruction, Washington, D. C. They are civilian employees of the Medical Department of the Army, and their work comes under one of two classes—either the distinctly physical reconstruction which has to do with massage, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and mechanotherapy, or the occupational work which will prepare the men to take up the regular vocational training for which we often hear the word "re-education."

The Federal government has charge of this work. Other agencies working under government control will help. The American Red Cross, especially, will supplement it, and through its Home Service has assumed the obligation to assist every soldier or sailor and his family whenever they need aid or counsel from it.

When American soldiers, blinded in battle, recover from their immediate wounds at the base hospitals in France special work for them is commenced. Later they are brought to the United States Military General Hospital No. 7, at Baltimore, for further medical and surgical treatment and special teaching. The ideal of the government will be to place every blinded man in a condition to take care of himself and those dependent on him. In many cases, it is hoped, the men will be able to command a larger salary after taking their training than before they lost their sight.

American Red Cross has supplemented the Army's plan by creating the Red Cross Institute for the Blind. One of its functions will be to provide certain financial aid to equip the blind man after his re-education is completed, as, for instance, furnishing typewriters to those who enter commercial life. It will be unearthing new occupations, helping to establish homes and arrange home work for those who cannot go into offices or factories.

But it will do something else that is,

again, a Christmas story. This Red Cross Institute will, in so far as is humanly possible, have the relative who will be responsible for the care of the blind man when he returns home, take the government training, side by side with him, as is now done by the British and French. With this full understanding at home of his difficulties and possibilities, many an ambition at first undreamed of may be fulfilled.

Through the gift of Jeremiah Milbank of New York the Red Cross was enabled to establish in New York its experimental Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men. One of its principal objects is to assist in the general campaign of public education regarding the results which can be accomplished by systematically re-training disabled men for occupations in which they can successfully compete with able-bodied men.

"Thus equipped," writes W. Frank Persons, Director General of Civilian Relief of the American Red Cross, "they may confidently look forward to a future of normal human work and play."

THE RED CROSS MAN.

By Jeanne Judson.

The Red Cross man was here today,
He seems to know some magic way
Of being everywhere;
In Paris when a chap is broke,
He passes out a Yankee smoke,
And at the front, he's there.
He gives us something hot to drink,
He seems to want to make us think
We're happy and at ease;
He keeps as busy as can be,
Just working for my mates and me,
His method sure does please.
And though he doesn't tote a gun,
We know he's with us everyone,
Till duty sets us free;
His wheeled canteen is far more fair
Than any lobster palace rare,
We drink his health in tea.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND

Because of her continued absence from school and the fact that she lived in rather an undesirable neighborhood and was on the streets all day a school teacher recently brought to the attention of the Home Service department of the Red Cross the story of a girl of ten years whose mother was ill and whose only other relatives were two brothers, one in camp and the other a youth of seventeen whose earnings seemed to be the only means of support for the family.

The Home Service worker called, found the mother very ill and needing hospital care at once. Arrangements were made for the mother's care and also for a home for the girl in the country where she would receive real home training and love. The mother grew worse and died soon afterwards. The seventeen-year-old boy enlisted. The boy in camp had not known that his mother needed his help, but was glad to contribute from his pay when the true circumstances were made known. The girl is now in the country, going to school, and is receiving allotments from both of her brothers and is well cared for. She is under the watchful care of the Home Service workers and comes to them often for counsel.

Hospital searchers are being sent by the American Red Cross into all the hospitals along the front. Their task is to supplement the necessarily meager reports sent by the Army to the families of the killed and wounded with more detailed letters. It is the human touch that makes the whole world kin.

A portable kitchen, installed by the American Red Cross on the exact spot where Joan of Arc was captured, provided tea, coffee and other refreshments to 10,000 soldiers and civilians daily.

Good Will Given a New Impetus

A statement of Dodge Brothers war activities is due the owners of their cars.

Dodge Brothers refrained, during the progress of the war, from any reference to the performance of the car in Government service.

It seems proper now, however, to disclose the facts—intensifying that good will which owners of Dodge Brothers cars have always manifested.

Dodge Brothers car was the only one of its class approved and adopted by the War Department.

In a separate Ordinance Works, built especially for the purpose, costing millions of dollars and employing thousands of their skilled motor workmen, Dodge Brothers undertook an important duty designated by the War Department.

Without the aid of their great motor organization, Dodge Brothers could not have fulfilled the heavy obligation which they were asked to assume by the Ordnance Department.

The other service required of Dodge Brothers motor works, by the Government, was to continue to furnish their cars as they were needed.

They were furnished, not in hundreds but in thousands—both for the training camps here, and for service in Belgium, France and Italy.

The record of those thousands of camp and army cars is one in which any owner may feel the utmost pride and satisfaction.

Their performance justified the compliment implied in their selection by the Government.

The great works in which nearly three hundred thousand of their cars have been produced in the past four years furnished a vast store-house of human energy and equipment for the ordnance work.

Naturally, it will take time to adjust the motor works to its full accustomed activity.

Gradually Dodge Brothers will resume the grateful task of continuing to deserve the good will of America—and indeed of the whole world.

Dodge Brothers consider good will their most valuable possession.

They will never knowingly do anything to lessen it.

Walther-Williams Co.

THE DALLES, OREGON



By courtesy of H. C. Temple, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"OO! GRAN'PA, WE FORGOT SOMPIN'!"

MEAT INCREASE AT TIME NEEDED

Producers Responded Nobly When Demand Was Shown to Them.

CATTLE AND HOG FIGURES.

Government Justified in Pork Policy Which Now Provides Chief Supply to Meet Three Billion Pound Fat Shortage.

In line with the general plan of conservation formulated by the U. S. Food Administration immediately following the entrance of the United States into the war the contribution made by the meat producers of this country to the war program is of particular significance, as it demonstrates the hearty co-operation accorded the Food Administration by the meat producers of the country.

According to reports of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, there was an increase in cattle of 10,288,000 head and 12,441,000 hogs, these figures compiled to January 1 last. In the same period there was a decrease of 810,000 head of sheep, but indications are this decrease will show an increase following the latest reports.

Since January 1 unofficial information indicates an increase in hogs of not less than eight per cent, and not more than fifteen per cent, compared with one year ago, with an increase in average weight.

Following the request of the Food Administration for increase in hog production for the fall of 1918 and the spring of 1919 the increase may yield not less than 1,000,000,000 pounds more of pork products than were available last year. Without this increase the shipping program arranged by Mr. Hoover regarding animal food products would have been impossible.

The dressed hog products during the three months ending September 30, 1917, amounted to 908,172,000 pounds, while for the same months of 1918 the production was 1,277,880,000 pounds, an increase of over 374,000,000 pounds for the quarter.

During the same period in 1917 inspected slaughter records of dressed

beef showed 1,263,000,000 pounds as against 1,454,000,000 pounds for the three month period ending September 1, this year.

We must increase our meat shipments, especially our pork products, to meet the added demands of the millions liberated from German oppression. And at the same time we must look forward to the rehabilitation of the European meat herds. The policy which guided our meat program in the past year has been fully justified, for only the heavy pork production which it has brought about will enable us even partly to satisfy the increased demands on us for the coming year. There will be a world shortage in fats, and it is to the United States that Europe must look to supply its deficiency. At the same time there will continue to be heavy demands for beef. Owing to the limited refrigerator shipping capacity European imports of beef for some time will be limited. The United States, Australia and Argentina will be able to maintain a supply that will keep all available freezer vessels operating at capacity.

America's Pledge to the Allies When Their Lines Were Breaking

America will send the food, whatever needs for victory. They believed, they stood fast and with our men they carried on—to victory.

Origin of Cotton Boll.

The pink boll worm, the worst enemy known to the cotton crop of India, probably originated there. Later it was found in Burma, Ceylon, Egypt and in almost every other cotton district on the globe.

Status for Bee-Hives.

A landowner in Silesia, Germany, has a collection of statues representing Biblical and ecclesiastical characters which he prizes very much. Lifesize figures of Moses, the twelve apostles and ancient dignitaries stand solemnly in a row. But the owner mixes business with his fine art, which the highest art critics say never should be done, and has fixed these figures as homes for the busy bees. There is this record of bees selecting a stranger kind of hive than the solemn figure of Moses or Paul: "And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion; and behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion." (Judges 14:8.)—Christian Herald.

HAVE QUEER PETS

Lonely Men in Signal Tower Welcome All Sorts.

Cockroach That Likes Tobacco and Drinks Ink is One Visitor—Toad Came Regularly for its Feast of Flies.

A Boston and Maine railroad signal towerman tells this story of pets he has made in his lonely perch above the tracks:

At midnight nine months ago a cockroach crept out from under the telegraph desk and began to drink out of the inkwell; just about that time I laid my cigar down on the desk and began to work the telegraph key.

The cockroach walked over to my cigar and sucked at the moist end for a second or so, then ran to the inkwell again and took a drink, then came back to the cigar; he repeated this performance several times and staggered away drunk as a lord.

Every night around midnight for the past nine months this cockroach has drunk from the inkwell on my desk and either sucked the moist end of my cigar or some moistened tobacco I place near the inkwell for him.

One of the boys found a tiny muskrat in the marsh back of the signal tower one day, and he brought it into the tower. The muskrat became very tame and proved a most affectionate pet. He slept on the desk near the telegraph instruments for over two years. Although he went out very often, he wouldn't stay long, and would scratch at the door until some of us would run downstairs and let him in. Unfortunately our pet was killed by a freight train while crossing the tracks near the tower one day.

After the muskrat died we brought in a tiny woodchuck that a trainman had captured out on the line, and he became very much attached to all of us, and, like the muskrat, he became a very clever and amusing pet.

"Shuck" stayed with us two years, and finally he disappeared one day. Possibly some dog got him, or he may have been crushed by a train.

For the past 20 years an English sparrow has nested in the eaves of the tower, and this sparrow flies in and out of the tower at will, picks up bread crumbs on the floor and catches an occasional cockroach. What worries the

lower men is that our pet sparrow may some day eat our pet cockroach.

Last year a toad hopped up on to the doorstep of the tower and sat there blinking. One of the boys fed him a fly and the toad gobbled it in an instant, and every afternoon all summer long that toad hopped up on to the step and ate flies as fast as the railroad men would feed them to him.

The boys took turns and fed him in relays; the yardmaster said the boys were neglecting their work to feed the toad; but he became so fascinated watching the performance that he caught flies for an hour one day and fed the toad.

I'm afraid the toad will go hungry this summer if he shows up, for we're too busy moving war supplies to bother with feeding pets around a railroad yard.

Every stray dog that ever wandered into the ward has found a haven in the tower, and several litters of puppies have been born there.

We've had cats galore; one cat in particular was a snake catcher, and he brought in a snake nearly every day.

Aerial Postal Service.

Negotiations for aerial postal service have been completed between the British and Dutch governments, and Holland is very busy making final arrangements. The journey from Amsterdam to London would take but one hour, and several litters of puppies have been born there.

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Austrian Child-Slaves.

The report of a parliamentary committee appointed to investigate conditions surrounding child labor in Austria discovered a most deplorable condition, according to the Arbeiter Zeitung of Vienna. More than one-third of all schoolchildren are engaged in some kind of work. In some districts all the children of school age are working. Out of every 100 schoolchildren between six and eight years, 18 are at work; between nine and ten, 25; between eleven and twelve, 50; and between thirteen and fourteen, 52. Two-fifths of these children have been working from the time they were five or six years old.