

ALERT RELIEF COLUMNS READY FOR ANY DISASTER

Red Cross Chapters in 3,500 Cities and Towns Prepared for Service.

THE value of the protective network thrown over the country by the American Red Cross, through its more than 3,500 local Chapters, was demonstrated the past year by calamities which struck in virtually every part of the nation. In most instances, the preparedness of these Chapters enabled relief work to start on the spot, contributing to prompt recovery of the stricken communities, and minimizing the effects of the disaster.

Service in 66 disasters within the United States and aid to victims of 22 disasters in foreign countries all over the world constituted an outstanding phase of the record of the American Red Cross during the year.

The huge demands of disaster relief are indicated by the fact that in the past three years alone, the American Red Cross served in 310 disasters, an average of more than 100 annually, or eight each month.

In one month, June, 1928, the organization was handling disaster relief operations in 15 states and the territory of Alaska. During the year, these operations extended to 33 states. More than 700,000 people in the United States, including victims of the Mississippi flood, and 650,000 in other lands, were assisted in the past year, by the course of this work.

Within the United States, extensive loss in life and property was caused by a series of calamities, mostly floods and tornadoes, from which no geographic section of the United States appeared immune. These occurrences were virtually continuous in effect. Competing during the year the record relief task undertaken in the Mississippi Valley in 1927, which ultimately affected 931,159 persons, 637,476 of whom received assistance through the Red Cross, the organization's forces were swept into other relief efforts.

Other Major Disasters

A tornado struck St. Louis late in September, 1927, as a result of which the Red Cross assisted 22,100 people; in November had a mine caused the most destructive flood ever experienced in New England to sweep through 21 counties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. The latter state was most severely damaged. Relief was extended to a total of 17,339 people following this disaster.

Terrible as the 1927 floods in the Mississippi Valley had proved, heavy

earthquakes, a shipwreck, a volcano eruption, four fires, five floods, two typhoons, a famine, a tornado, and a landslide.

These catastrophes occurred in Palestine, Mexico; Liechtenstein, Switzerland; Austria, Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Smyrna, and Greece. In these, the Red Cross contributed substantial relief funds towards aiding the sufferers. Besides, through its local Red Cross Chapters, the organization conducted relief operations at a number of points in the Philippine Islands, and in Porto Rico.

A World-Wide Movement

Two other important phases of American Red Cross service are closely allied to its foreign relations. The American Red Cross lends strong support to the world-wide work of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was founded to promote establishment of Red Cross organizations in all nations, and to encourage development of national societies already functioning. The second source of foreign contact is through the American Junior Red Cross.

The latter numbers 6,529,252 members, a gain of 200,000 over last year's membership. The American Juniors are part of a world-wide movement, in which forty nations participate, each with its own Junior organization, and involving a total membership of 12,000,000 children all over the world.

Through a system of international correspondence fostered by the organization, the Juniors are kept in correspondence with these foreign Junior groups during the school year, thus building up world goodwill in a fundamental way.

Besides international work of the Juniors, those in the United States



MAIN STREET OF A MASSACHUSETTS TOWN AFTER THE FLOOD



THE RED CROSS-BUILDS FOR HEALTH

able in the United States, a reserve of qualified nurses which now numbers 47,253, from which to draw in time of national emergency, and many of whom serve in the larger disasters each year. Several hundred assisted in the health campaign following the Mississippi flood of 1927; a number of others aided county and other health authorities in the Kentucky flood, in the cleanup following the St. Francis dam disaster in California, and elsewhere during the past year.

The Red Cross maintains in constant service a group of 745 Public Health Nurses, serving with more than 500 local Red Cross Chapters, who make inspections of school children,

dent menace today, so that the great loss is not necessarily in the industries. The latter, however, are enthusiastic supporters of this training.

First Aid in Industries

The Red Cross in the past year graduated 43,445 students including representatives of all the larger industries, such as telephone and other big utility organizations, railroads, and similar fields. These trained men, besides being able to help fellow employees, have, in a number of cases on record, saved lives and prevented needless suffering following street or highway accidents.

Water safety is no longer a summer resort problem, but due to the growing popularity of water sports the year-round, is a matter that requires constant vigilance. Experts in life-saving and water-safety under the Red Cross in the past year graduated 33,924 people in life-saving and during the coming winter will visit virtually all the larger universities and colleges having swimming facilities, to continue their activities among college men and women also.

There are now 173,556 life-savers trained by the Red Cross, thousands of whom give an untold amount of their time in volunteer services, training others, or protecting beaches and pools.

Volunteers Indispensable

This recalls that volunteers are the backbone of all Red Cross activities; the record of annual service at national headquarters shows that they serve as life-savers, as first aid instructors, as instructors in other branches of Red Cross endeavor, with motor corps units, or which there are about 235 now with Red Cross Chapters; they produce bandages and hospital garments, type Braille reading matter for the blind, and in disaster relief have proved an indispensable factor.

Although national statistics are complete for the last fiscal year, owing to the failure of chapters to report figures that have been gathered show that in this period volunteers produced 335,010 garments exclusive of the thousands of articles of clothing sent to the sufferers in the Mississippi and Vermont floods, as well as 2,376,621 surgical dressings, and 32,692 Christmas hats for soldiers and sailors at insular or foreign stations. Some 23,558 women did volunteer duty, and the motor corps answered 25,375 calls.

West Indies Hurricanes

While Porto Rico was still cut off from the outer world by the great



SUPPLIES BY ROWBOAT FOR A FLOOD-MARCOONED FAMILY

September hurricane, the American Red Cross was dispatching relief to victims by a Navy destroyer and assembling relief supplies. Before the storm was well at sea, a Navy transport sailed from New York with Red Cross supplies totaling 1,000 tons of food and 1,500 tons of tents and blankets for the homeless. Meanwhile, on a Weather Bureau warning, the Red Cross had in anticipation set up relief stations in Florida, which lay in the path of the storm.

The shipping of supplies by a war vessel and supplies by transports upon instructions by President Coolidge illustrate the close ties between the Government and the Red Cross. In calling upon the people to give to the Red Cross relief fund, the President said that the Red Cross was "acting as the agent of the American people."

The special disaster relief fund is managed by the Red Cross, but direct to the victims through the Red Cross. The real contributors to the first relief action were the people who joined the Red Cross last November. Their money was so hard to find that the Red Cross prepared for action in Florida, it was ready before the storm struck. Relief directors and assistants and enrolled nurses form a standing disaster relief army.

The September hurricane shattered the Red Cross's disaster fund. The real contributors to the first relief action were the people who joined the Red Cross last November. Their money was so hard to find that the Red Cross prepared for action in Florida, it was ready before the storm struck. Relief directors and assistants and enrolled nurses form a standing disaster relief army.

News of a disaster reaches the national headquarters of the Red Cross in Washington in various ways. The U. S. Weather Bureau, or telegraph, or news agency may report it, or a dispatch may come from a Red Cross field or chapter worker in or near the disaster area.

On the very day that news was flashed of the West Indies hurricanes, national headquarters sent its relief army of disaster relief and food supplies to the victims. The experienced staff men in the



RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS MAKING GARMENTS

rain in June of this year precipitated new floods in the nine states of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia. This disaster affected 120,000 persons in 75 counties. A large portion of the area suffered from the 1927 floods also, and destruction of crops, especially in Arkansas, Kentucky and Missouri, created a serious problem.

Red Cross Appropriations

The proportions of this recurring flood had all the elements of a major disaster. The American Red Cross met the relief needs with contributions received from contingents and local efforts supplemented by a large appropriation from the national funds of the Red Cross itself. In view of the great demands of the previous year, this appropriation did not ask the nation for relief funds, though the need was great.

Service to the St. Francis Dam disaster, in California, was rendered by local and national forces of the Red Cross, many of which personnel were transferred directly from the Mississippi flood relief for this new duty.

Disaster relief within the United States in the past year, of which there were some outstanding examples, cost for total expenditures of \$17,216,644.

In the past three years, the Red Cross has accumulated nearly \$75,000,000 of relief funds. Since 1925, it has expended approximately \$115,000,000 in the United States and abroad, to save expenditures of more than \$200,000,000 for relief in that period.

conduct "clean-up campaigns," make articles for their school rooms, beautify their school surroundings, furnish various remembrances for disabled war veterans in hospitals of their communities, and have many similarly useful home activities. The American Juniors have in many disaster relief operations shared with the senior Red Cross in ameliorating the suffering encountered.

Overhauling all other Red Cross services except disaster relief is the nation-wide work of the organization in behalf of disabled war veterans, and men in active service. There are now in Veterans' Bureau hospitals a daily average of approximately 25,000 disabled and sick World War veterans; some have been almost continuously in hospitals, others have returned later from effects of war disabilities, some of them permanent.

Obligations to Veterans

Care of these veterans, in ways not provided for by governmental or other agencies, is a Charter obligation of the American Red Cross. It maintains special representatives in all Veterans' Bureau hospitals, at all regional offices of the Veterans' Bureau, and has a special staff of trained workers at National Headquarters engaged in various forms of assistance to these men and women. In addition, the Red Cross offers service to the great army of veterans now in civil life, assisting them with claims for benefits due them for war service, such as insurance, home, and other rights.

The Red Cross is a recognized and friendly intermediary between the veteran and his Government, and is the only strong link between the war of today's armed forces and the people, whether he is absent or on foreign duty.



MOTOR CORPS UNITS MANNED BY VOLUNTEERS ARE IMPORTANT RED CROSS ADJUNCTS

This year will mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, but the Red Cross services for veterans and their families have not increased. Instead of diminishing the number of appeals and death and insurance claims handled by Red Cross National Headquarters in behalf of veterans has increased more than 100 per cent.

Local Units Do Their Part

Approximately 2,500 local Chapters of the Red Cross, in as many communities, are conducting essential services beneficial to veterans, while the entire national structure of the organization is available to further this work.

For the Regular Army and Navy, Red Cross workers are stationed in 218 camps and stations at home and on foreign soil. Marines serving in jungle outposts of Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, and elsewhere in China, Panama, Hawaii, the Philippines, are aided in their service.

make home visits in assisting with health problems in the communities; assist in teaching the Red Cross course in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, and cooperate with their communities in promoting high health standards.

Another phase of Red Cross health work is the Nutrition Service, which in schools and among adults all over the United States conducted in the past year special classes designed to impart a better knowledge of correct food habits for health. School authorities and others are high in their praise of the work, in correcting an derweight among school children, and as a contribution to better national health.

Through instruction in First Aid, the Red Cross offers a particularly valuable service to the nation's industrial groups, and the latter have turned to this instruction in ever-growing numbers as a solution for the annual back cost of accidents. An authoritative statistic shows that the automobile is the most deadly acci-