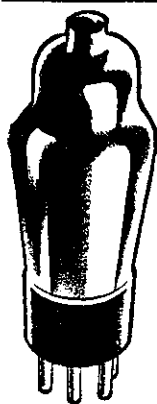


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IN THE INTERESTS OF HUMANITY

*What The International Red Cross Is
Doing—And Is
Ready To Do When
Peace Comes*

THIS week a conference representing the United Nations will meet in Washington to discuss the rehabilitation of the world after the war. It would be reckless to say that preliminary plans will be made, but agreements may be reached that will prepare the way for such plans. Of course rehabilitation will begin with relief. It would be a mockery to lay plans for any kind of world until millions of uprooted and starving people are provided with food and shelter.

So, instead of filling space at this stage with blue-prints of a new Europe or a new South-Eastern Asia we have asked Captain M. S. Galloway, Dominion Secretary of the N.Z. Red Cross Society to give us some idea of the machinery of relief now in existence and working, and to indicate in what way the Red Cross will fit into these plans of world resettlement.

IT was a big request, Captain Galloway told us, and not easy to decide where it was best to begin. To most people in New Zealand the Red Cross did not start at all. It grew. It is older than they are, and they can't imagine a world without it. But its birthday is almost as definite as their own. "It was conceived," Captain Galloway told us, "on the battlefield of Solferino in 1859, and the idea that came then to Henry Dunant led five years later to the Geneva Convention from which modern war accepts its international obligations on the humanitarian side."

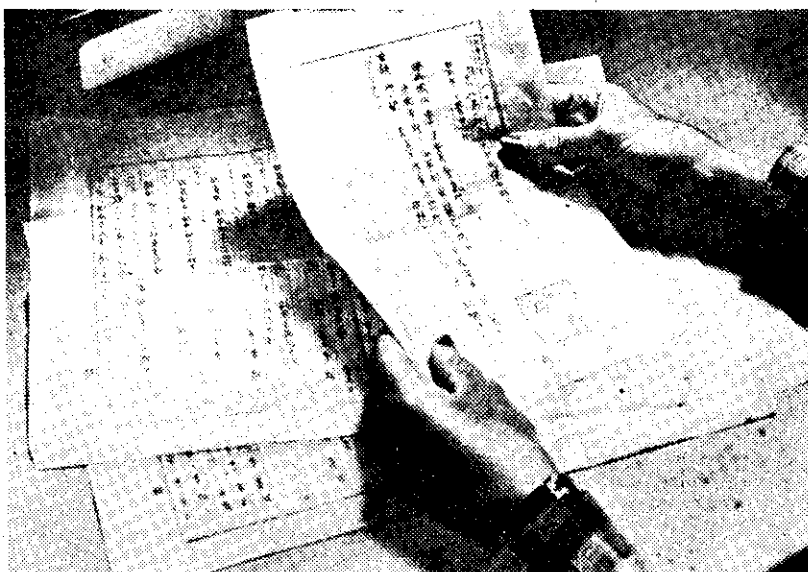
Henry Dunant is in fact a story by himself, if there were space here to tell it. There isn't; but Captain Galloway asked us not to forget what the world owes to this amazing man, a banker and company-promoter, who went to Solferino to look for the Emperor Napoleon III.—not to talk humanitarianism with him, but to discuss business concessions—and who stayed to bind up wounds and to start a movement that has been doing this on a world scale ever since.

Well, that was 84 years ago. To-day the Red Cross is an international organisation serving the whole world but remaining steadfastly aloof from all the world's quarrels. The International Red Cross Committee is a strictly neutral body of 25 Swiss citizens who accept responsibility for carrying out the Prisoners of War Convention of 1929. To carry on this work, which the Swiss accept as their duty to mankind, the Committee employs a staff of 4,389 men and women, of whom less than one-quarter are paid. The organisation is housed

(continued on next page)



Wounded German Prisoners-of-War in a Red Cross Dressing Station in North Africa



Japanese official lists of prisoners-of-war and interned civilians. The Japanese Red Cross was very well organised before the war



Red Cross nurses unloading medical and other supplies for distribution to Red Cross depots in the battle areas