



FOUNDER OF THE RED CROSS: Henri Dunant at the age of 80 years. What he saw at the Battle of Solferino in 1859 inspired him to his great work



THE LEADER TO-DAY: Max Huber, a prominent Swiss citizen who has been president of the International Red Cross since 1928.

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in 27 different centres, and the Bureau index at Geneva holds fifteen million cards.

Closely connected with that organisation is what is known as the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, which links up the work of 68 different nations, and has a membership in excess of forty millions. There are thus two great organisations based on Geneva—the International Committee in charge of war work, and the League of Red Cross Societies working to promote health and mitigate suffering all over the world. For there is neither class, colour, nor creed in the Red Cross. Its parliament, for example, which is called together once every two years, had its last pre-war meeting in London, but the meeting before that was held in Tokio.

"You will understand its position to-day," Captain Galloway said, "if you remember that its aim is to be something like an international fire brigade—a relief organisation so thoroughly staffed and equipped that the pressing of a button would bring it instantly into action wherever a disaster was reported. One of its testing places was Spain, where it first realised to the full the urgent need of helping civilians uprooted by war, and ministered to both sides without taking sides."

And the present war is of course Spain on a vastly more tragic scale. "Our attitude to the Washington Conference," Captain Galloway said, "is that we have the machinery now for relief and for the other preliminaries to reconstruction. We have a vast organisation for distributing food and clothing, and for fighting disease. We say to the United Nations 'All this is at your service. Get behind us with all your resources if you want wheels to turn without undue friction and delay.'"

"Our Own Shipping"

"It is not generally known," Captain Galloway added, "that we have our own

shipping company. As the war advanced, and our work was threatened with suspension through lack of transport, we assembled our own ships, and to-day have more than fifty thousand tons of shipping flying our own flag. So far not a single ship from our own fleet has been sunk, though there have been one or two cases of chartered ships striking mines; one last week, for example."

Another very interesting fact mentioned by Captain Galloway was the provision already made for coping with epidemics. In Geneva, he told us, there are four large warehouses filled with drugs and vaccines as a precaution against outbreaks of typhus and other

ONE thing which has aroused wonder and admiration in all who have worked among the famine-stricken population of Greece must be mentioned here, and that is their extraordinary dignity in suffering, their patient endurance and the unfailing gratitude with which they have accepted every measure judged necessary by those whom they know are trying to help them. There have been no revolts, few thefts and few abuses. Nothing could pay higher tribute to this imposing moral discipline than the fact that the distributions are made under the supervision, not of gendarmes or other agents of the law, but of ladies, members of well-known and respected families whose presence is authority enough to ensure right dealing and good conduct on both sides of the counter. The Red Cross representatives are the object of the most touching demonstrations of respect wherever they appear.

infections. "No such provision had been thought of during the last war, and as a result millions of people died of epidemic diseases whose lives might otherwise have been saved."

The Far East

When we asked about the Far East, Captain Galloway said that the Japanese had moved so quickly over Malay, the Dutch East, and hundreds of islands in the Pacific that their army and navy had outrun their Red Cross. "But they have a Red Cross, and it was before the war one of the best organised in the world. Most of the things that are done here by the Health Department are done in Japan by the Red Cross—the staffing of hospitals, training of nurses, health education among the public—and if the Japanese Red Cross has broken down since hostilities began it is a temporary breakdown. I know that lists of prisoners and internees are now coming to hand more freely, and we have information that in some camps at least there was a very real attempt made to provide both mental and material comforts last Christmas—traditional dinners, decorations, and so on."

"You think then that relatives of prisoners in Japanese hands should not be unduly apprehensive?"

"They can't help being worried, but they certainly should not assume that the Red Cross is not functioning in Eastern prison camps. I am sure that it is, and that conditions will improve steadily as time goes on. One of the difficulties of course is that the Japanese—civilians as well as soldiers—have a much lower standard of living than we have, and can be satisfied with much less in the way of food. But we are dealing with that problem as far as we can."

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