

What the Canadian Red Cross Society is Doing in the Great War

The Red Cross: What it Is.

"The Red Cross creates an oasis of peace in the desert of war."

By International Agreement, the person, place or property bearing this emblem is regarded as being outside the zone of war; and as immune from attack or capture. Under the Convention of Geneva it may be used only in the service of sick and wounded soldiers and sailors and prisoners of war either by the Medical Services of the Army and Navy or by Voluntary Societies organized under conditions laid down by International Red Cross Conventions and recognized by the Governments of the countries in which they operate.

Who Organized the Movement.

The idea of an International Agreement for providing organized relief

under a recognized sign or flag for the benefit of wounded men was first suggested by Monsieur Henri Dunant, of Geneva, Switzerland, who, on the battlefield of Solferino in 1859, had seen the sufferings endured by untended wounded men, and had vowed to devote his life to their relief. He admits that the work of Florence Nightingale in the Crimea first awoke in him the desire to serve humanity in this way; but to Dunant belongs the credit of crystallizing in a tangible form the inspiration of Florence Nightingale's example. The first International Convention was held at Geneva in August, 1864, and the movement has spread and widened until now all civilized nations are signatories of the Red Cross Treaty. At the Hague Convention of 1899 the scope of its work widened to include ministrations to sick and wounded sailors and prisoners of war.