

PEACE-TIME POLICY AND PROGRAMME OF THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The following statement, tracing the principal course of the movement which led to the development of the obligation of the Canadian Red Cross Society to carry on a Peace-time Programme, was prepared for the First Meeting of the Red Cross Advisory and Consultative Committee, by Doctor James W. Robertson, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

FIRST STEPS BY FIVE GREAT POWERS

In December 1918: With the approval and indorsement of the Governments of the five great powers, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States, a Committee of their Red Cross Societies was constituted "to formulate and to propose to the Red Cross Societies of the world an extended programme of Red Cross activities in the interest of humanity."

The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies has issued the following statement:

"The Red Cross Societies of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan for several months worked incessantly through their representatives to devise an agency which could adequately cope with world problems of disease and disaster.

"From the outset it was clear to us all that there was no institution in the world so well adapted to this task as the Red Cross, because of the peculiar hold which it has upon the hearts of all peoples, irrespective of differences of race and religion, because of its fifty years of honorable service in all quarters of the globe, because of the amazing development of its powers in the recent war, because of the anxiety of its membership not to lose the opportunity for service when war service was no longer needed—because, in short, of the consensus of opinion, medical and lay, that the health problems of the world can never be solved by doctors, alone, nor by governments alone; but must enlist the hearty volunteer co-operation of the peoples themselves; and no organization can mobilize the peoples of divergent views as can the Red Cross.

"Recognizing this phenomenon, the five largest Red Cross Societies have banded themselves together to bring about Red Cross co-operation everywhere."