

Prussia, Austria and Denmark established National Red Cross Committees in 1864. In England there was some confusion of societies. In 1870, at the beginning of the Franco Prussian war, there was founded "The National Society for aid to the sick and wounded in war," and in 1898, a kindred organization called "The Central British Red Cross Council" was officially recognized by the war office. These two societies in 1905 joined forces under the name of "The British Red Cross Society."

The Geneva Convention of 1864 has been superseded by the Geneva Convention of 1906, when the principles laid down by the earlier convention were somewhat altered in the light of experience. The conference of 1906 was attended by seventy-seven delegates, representing thirty-seven governments. The position of voluntary aid societies was defined and legalized. It was agreed that each state should notify to the other the name of the authorized society which is to render assistance to the regular medical service. And as the Red Cross has been agreed upon as the name and distinctive sign of such an authorized society, it will be seen that all relief work for the sick or wounded in war must pass into the Red Cross category instead of working independently.

The position and objects of the Canadian Red Cross Society are officially stated as follows:

"The Canadian Red Cross Society was first established in the year 1896, and acted throughout the Boer War. It was subsequently incorporated in the year 1909 by an Act of the Dominion Parliament.

"The British Red Cross Society, acting under a Charter given by His Majesty, King Edward the Seventh, is the parent society, and represents the British nation under the International Treaties of Geneva. The Canadian Red Cross Society is in affiliation with it.

"The principal aims and objects of the Society are to collect funds and material and to provide assistance to the sick and wounded in time of war, supplementary to that furnished by the Official Naval and Medical Departments."

We quote now from the appeal of the Central Committee:

Basing our probable casualties on the statistics of former modern wars, there will probably be in this greatest of all wars, 140,000 men killed

and wounded. Allowing 20 per cent, the average disability in war, as an average number of sick, it would mean that we shall have 400,000 sick in the armies in Europe. This is a modest estimate. With the Canadian Contingents there are hospitals and ambulances containing 2,090 beds. These hospitals are equipped by the government, but in addition to the official and regular supplies the Canadian Red Cross Society is supplying large additions of reserve and supplementary stores. These stores are under the direct control of the officers commanding the Canadian Hospitals. It will be necessary for the society to supplement these stores from time to time as occasion offers. Since the beginning of the war the Canadian Society has already (September 1914) remitted to the Central British Red Cross Society, in London, the sum of £10,000 for the general use of the sick and wounded.

"Our object in doing this is to bring as quickly as possible, through the agency of the parent Society, which is near the front, aid to the unfortunates of the armies and to avoid the necessary delay in the transport of stores from this country. It seemed to the Committee the most effectual way of giving immediate aid.

"It has been previously stated that 50,000 Canadian troops are being sent to Europe to take part in the great war. It is our duty as well as our privilege to provide for the sick and wounded of this contingent all comforts which may be possible, either directly through our own Society or indirectly through the British Red Cross Society. To accomplish this we must have first, MONEY, with which to purchase the necessary articles which cannot be made at home, to contribute cash to wounded and sick soldiers, and to pay the running expenses. Therefore, give as your heart dictates. The widow's mite and the millionaire's cheque are equally welcome, and will be faithfully applied.

"Money and goods should be sent to the Treasurer, Canadian Red Cross Central Committee, 77 King Street East, Toronto, or to the local committees of your district."

All the air was flat with snow,
All the air was thick with snow;
More than this no man could see,
For all the world was snowing.