

CANTON RED CROSS

Committees Working In Aid of Refugees

NEED FOR MORE SUPPORT

One of the bodies which has been called upon to do a considerable amount of work recently, is the Canton International Red Cross Society, which was formed on October 18, 1937, when a group of interested residents of Canton met in the Canton Club at the invitation of Governor Wu Te-chen and Mayor Tsang Yang-fu. It was decided at this meeting to apply for a charter from the Red Cross Society of China and to arrange for a subsequent meeting which would include a large number of interested people. This meeting was held on November 5, when officers were elected and the plans for the organisation were tentatively made.

The objects of the Society are to meet the needs which have arisen in the present war in China, and to plan for the future so that needs which may arise in the future may be adequately met.

The work of the Society can best be seen in the different committees which have been appointed.

The Executive Committee is composed of the following:—Chairman, Dr. Wm. W. Cadbury, Superintendent of the Canton Hospital; Vice-Chairmen, Mr. H. Staples-Smith, Deacon and Company, Mr. C. N. Laird, Lingnam University; Director, Mr. F. A. Dixon, Ex-Director of Posts; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. D. L. Dawson, Manager, Chartered Bank; Members, Rev. G. F. Allen, Sec. Refugee Areas Committee, Shameen, Rev. A. J. Fisher, Paak-Hok Tung; Rev. N. V. Halward, Holy Trinity School; Dr. R. L. Lancaster, Mr. T. Kai Liang, Bank of Canton; Dr. F. Oldt, Canton Hospital, and Dr. T. Stevenson, Hackett Medical Centre.

The Medical Supplies Committee, with Dr. R. L. Lancaster as chairman, is responsible for the securing and distribution of medical supplies. Supplies have been received from Chinese Red Cross and American Red Cross and the London Lord Mayor's Fund. These have been organised and distributed to hospitals where they are available for present needs and can be used for emergencies which may arise. Supplies which have not been distributed are held in reserve for future use.

The Hospital Committee, with Dr. F. Oldt as Chairman, arranged for the co-operation of several Mission Hospitals in South China, in case of an invasion. Supplies were distributed in advance to some 10 different centres. Just prior to the invasion of Canton, a Service Corps of the International Red Cross led by Dr. Wong Man and a party of 140 workers recruited mostly from the Staff of the Canton Hospital started North. The latest reports indicate that they have been divided between the Methodist Hospital at Shiukwan, the Presbyterian Hospital at Linhsien and the Baptist Hospital at Kweilin. In all of these centres there have been many casualties among civilians, resulting from repeated bombings.

In addition, the International Red Cross has assumed the responsibility for financing two hospitals—the Canton Hospital and the Hackett Medical Centre, which are running to capacity, serving the sick of the Refugee Camps and other destitute people in Canton.

Refugee Areas

The Refugee Areas Committee is composed of Rev. J. M. Henry, Chairman, Rev. G. F. Allen, Secretary, and Dr. Wm. Cadbury, Rev. A. J. Fisher, Bishop Fourquet, Rev. N. V. Halward, Father McDonald and Col. Rolfe as members.

This Committee has undertaken the general oversight and co-ordination of the five main Refugee Centres in Canton, located at Lingnan University, Paak Hok Tung, The School for the Blind, the Pui Ying School at Fati and the Holy Trinity School. It has also assisted in the distribution of necessary supplies to various other centres of social and relief work.

In these various centres more than 20,000 refugees are fed and housed. The Committee is now making preparations for the care of many thousands more of those rendered homeless and penniless, by the destruction of their homes, by fire and the looting of all their possessions.

It will be many months before these unfortunates can be able to maintain themselves once more.

Through the generosity of Friends in Hongkong, a relief ship was dispatched to Canton with large supplies of rice, beans and other provisions. These supplies were greatly needed, as it has been very difficult to find supplies locally, and still more difficult to transport them when found.

The Canton International Red Cross has no employed officers and operates with a minimum of administrative expense.

The Committee has received a number of contributions which have been used for refugees and others suffering because of the present war.

Members of the Executive Committee and the officers welcome contributions from individuals and organisations, and pledge themselves to distribute funds, clothing, medical supplies and other gifts to those in greatest need. Cheques may be sent to Mr. D. L. Dawson, Hon. Treasurer, Chartered Bank, Shameen.