

"ALL YOU NEED IS A HEART AND A DOLLAR"

CHRISTMAS ROLL CALL.



By courtesy of H. C. Temple, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"OO! GRAN'PA, WE FOGOT SOMPIN'!"

WHAT COUNTRY MUST DO FOR ITS DISABLED SOLDIERS

Problems of Reconstruction Confront American Red Cross With New Tasks and New Responsibilities.

During these Christmases, when men in the trenches and on mired seas sing carols; when our country glows to its uttermost boundaries with the symbol of the Red Cross; when the most earthbound look for awhile at the crosses and the stars—new understandings, new simplicities, new willingness for service come to very many men and women.

And as our soldiers and sailors who went out young and strong and singing the "Long, Long Trail" and "Over There" now come back crippled and disabled, Americans are seeing more and more their own part and responsibility in reconstruction. This work means teaching the blind to see, giving movement to the paralyzed, power to the remnant of arms and legs to do full duty, the chance of health to the tubercular, light to minds befogged by shell shock.

Our government, the Medical Department of the Army and the American Red Cross, from the time of our entrance in the war, have been working out the tasks preparatory to this reconstruction, which is the key-word to their usefulness and happiness. The work itself is already begun in the hospitals where our returned men have been brought.

This has meant the equipment of hospitals, the recruiting of the doctors and nurses and the formulation of plans for training for vocations, which means independence, replacing activity for inactivity.

For this physical reconstruction in our military hospitals at home, our government, through the office of the Surgeon-General, is asking for reconstruction aids. This hospital service is open to hundreds, indeed thousands, of women who as wives of men in the service have been technically barred from other military hospital service. They are needed at once and may learn full particulars regarding training, qualifications, pay and so forth by writing for information to the office of the Surgeon-General, Division of Reconstruction, Washington, D. C. They are civilian employees of the Medical Department of the Army, and their work comes under one of two classes—either the distinctly physical reconstruction which has to do with massage, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and mechanotherapy, or the occupational work which will prepare the men to take up the regular vocational training for which we often hear the word "re-education."

The Federal government has charge of this work. Other agencies working under government control will help. The American Red Cross, especially, will supplement it, and through its Home Service has assumed the obligation to assist every soldier or sailor and his family whenever they need aid or counsel from it.

When American soldiers, blinded in battle, recover from their immediate wounds at the base hospitals in France, special work for them is commenced. Later they are brought to the United States Military General Hospital No. 7, at Baltimore, for further medical and surgical treatment and special teaching. The ideal of the government will be to place every blinded man in a condition to take care of himself and those dependent on him. In many cases, it is hoped, the men will be able to command a larger salary after taking their training than before they lost their sight.

American Red Cross has supplemented the Army's plan by creating the Red Cross Institute for the Blind. One of its functions will be to provide certain financial aid to equip the blind man after his re-education is completed, as, for instance, furnishing typewriters to those who enter commercial life. It will be unearthing new occupations, helping to establish homes and arrange home work for those who cannot go into offices or factories.

But it will do something else that is,

THE RED CROSS MAN.
 * By Jeanne Judson.
 * The Red Cross man was here today.
 * He seems to know some magic way.
 * Of being everywhere;
 * In Paris when a chap is broke,
 * He passes out a Yankee smoke,
 * And at the front, he's there.
 * He gives us something hot to drink,
 * He seems to want to make us think
 * We're happy and at ease;
 * He keeps as busy as can be,
 * Just working for my mates and me.
 * His method sure does please.
 * And though he doesn't tote a gun,
 * We know he's with us everyone,
 * Till duty sets us free;
 * His wheeled canteen is far more fair
 * Than any lobster palace rare,
 * We drink his health in tea.
 * *****

Hospital searchers are being sent by the American Red Cross into all the hospitals along the front. Their task is to supplement the necessarily meager reports sent by the Army to the families of the killed and wounded with more detailed letters. It is the human touch that makes the whole world kin.

again, a Christmas story. This Red Cross Institute will, in so far as is humanly possible, have the relative who will be responsible for the care of the blind man when he returns home, take the government training, side by side with him, as is now done by the British and French. With this full understanding at home of his difficulties and possibilities, many an ambition at first undreamed of may be fulfilled.

Through the gift of Jeremiah Milbank of New York the Red Cross was enabled to establish in New York its experimental Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men. One of its principal objects is to assist in the general campaign of public education regarding the results which can be accomplished by systematically re-training disabled men for occupations in which they can successfully compete with able-bodied men.

"Thus equipped," writes W. Frank Persons, Director General of Civilian Relief of the American Red Cross, "they may confidently look forward to a future of normal human work and play."

CARING FOR THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND

Because of her continued absence from school and the fact that she lived in rather an undesirable neighborhood and was on the streets all day a school teacher recently brought to the attention of the Home Service department of the Red Cross the story of a girl of ten years whose mother was ill and whose only other relatives were two brothers, one in camp and the other a youth of seventeen whose earnings seemed to be the only means of support for the family.

The Home Service worker called, found the mother very ill and needing hospital care at once. Arrangements were made for the mother's care and also for a home for the girl in the country where she would receive real home training and love. The mother grew worse and died soon afterwards. The seventeen-year-old boy enlisted. The boy in camp had not known that his mother needed his help, but was glad to contribute from his pay when the true circumstances were made known. The girl is now in the country, going to school, and is receiving allotments from both of her brothers and is well cared for. She is under the watchful care of the Home Service workers and comes to them often for counsel.

A portable kitchen, installed by the American Red Cross on the exact spot where Joan of Arc was captured, provided tea, coffee and other refreshments to 10,000 soldiers and civilians daily.

CONSERVATION OF LABOR

In years past we in America have been prodigal in all things. We have been careless with our natural resources, we have drawn relentlessly on the fertility of our soils, and we have frequently shown poor judgment in the utilization of the one item which is more costly in America than anywhere else in the world—the item of labor. Being Americans we did what we pleased and when we pleased, regardless.

For a concrete example let us consider the annual distribution of labor in the fertilizer factories of the country. In March and April twice as many men were employed as in the months of November and December. Why? Simply because the vast majority of orders were filled in March and shipments were nearly all demanded in March or April.

The same unequal distribution of labor prevailed among the farmers to whom the fertilizer industry sold its goods. During November and December farmers and their labor had as little to do as at any time of the year, and in March and April they were as busy as bees. Taking a day or two from plowing or sowing in order to haul fertilizer was as painful as pulling teeth. Yet that was exactly when the hauling was done.

Why was not the fertilizer ordered in November and hauled home in December or January? The manufacturer would have welcomed the orders and he could not have given them better attention; roads were usually better for hauling in winter than in early spring, and there would have been none of this delay at the all-important time of seeding.

It would have been so easy to have gained this better distribution of labor and saved so much for both parties. But it took a big war and a terrific shortage of labor to make us realize that early orders and early shipments were much more satisfactory, far less costly, and not productive of the anxious delays so common under the old system.

CABBAGE HIGH SPOTS

Profits Depend Either on Early Maturity or on Heavy Yields.

Best possible yields of cabbage interest you whether you grow a garden patch or a field of 25 acres; whether you grow it for kraut or for early market. The profit you make on your early crop depends to a very large extent upon how large a per cent of it matures crop harvesting before the high early prices. The profit you make on your late crop depends to a large extent on how many tons per acre you grow.

Practical experience shows that you can do a great deal to control the yield—the per cent of early maturity, the weight and the quality of your crop. Such information means dollars to you.

If you want prize-winning cattle you feed them an abundance of well-balanced food. You can get profitable bumper cabbage crops by proper crop feeding.

Maryland experiment station says: "Late cabbage especially does not do well on land that has been cropped every year (without a grass or legume crop intervening between crops), but if a piece of sod land, even if somewhat thin, can be given 750 pounds of commercial fertilizer with a light dressing of stable manure, it will invariably produce a good crop."

A complete fertilizer should be applied at the time the cabbage ground is being prepared to receive the plants. This is best done by drilling in the fertilizer with a grain drill fitted with fertilizer attachment, or by broadcasting with a live and fertilizer broadcaster. When the latter method is followed, be careful to work in the fertilizer by thorough disking and harrowing.

POTATOES CRY FOR POTASH

Phoma stem blight is the name of the new disease which has created so much trouble in the big potato-growing sections during the past summer. Growers have become greatly alarmed and have appealed to Washington for aid.

The specialists, however, do not think the disease will be serious, nor do they think that it will be hard to control. It seems that it appears only under exceptional conditions of weather and maintenance.

The department officials are inclined to lay the major portion of the blame on unbalanced fertilizer—that is, using fertilizer lacking potash. They claim this disease will disappear on remedying the condition of malnutrition and recommend that next year a fertilizer containing as high as 3 per cent potash be applied. Fortunately American sources of supply can now furnish this food in sufficient quantities.

When scabby potatoes are fed in stock, infection of the disease is carried in the manure. Even cooking the potatoes fails to kill the resistant spores. For this reason it is real safe to use fertilizer on potatoes that is to be manure.

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