

# Heads Red Cross in Italy



ROBERT P. PERKINS

Mr. Perkins recently arrived in Italy at the head of a permanent Red Cross Commission, which is undertaking the relief of Italian soldiers and civilian sufferers. Approximately \$5,000,000 has been appropriated for the work of this commission.

## RED CROSS BEGINS WORK IN ITALY ON IMMENSE SCALE

\$4,771,990 APPROPRIATED TO COVER OPERATIONS.

Specialists Appointed to Commission to Help Soldiers and Stricken Civilians.

A far-reaching program of war relief now is being carried on in Italy under the direction of the American Red Cross permanent Italian Relief Expedition, headed by Mr. Robert P. Perkins of New York city.

The expenditure of \$1,082,010 to cover the cost of operations in Italy in the immediate future will come under the supervision of the permanent commission. This sum, which has already been appropriated, brings the total appropriations for American Red Cross activities in Italy to \$4,771,990.

The commission to Italy has the following personnel of deputies: Chester H. Aldrich, New York city; James Byrne, New York city, legal advisor; Dr. Joseph Collins, New York city, medical director; Ernesto Fabbri, New York city; Samuel L. Fuller, New York city, financial director; Guy Loyell, New York city; Thomas L. Robinson, Youngstown, O., supplies; Prof. D. L. Wilmer, Philadelphia; Rev. Sigourney W. Fay, Wynwood, Pa.

Specialists on Commission. Included in the general organization personnel are Louis A. Davis, Philadelphia, office manager; William E. Hereford, New York city; Julius Roth, New York city, transportation; and Edward L. Williams, New York city, secretary.

Mr. Perkins is president of the Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Company of Connecticut. Professor Wilmer is a psychologist and director of the psychological laboratory and clinic of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Lowell is an architect of New York city and Boston.

Dr. Collins is a widely known neurologist. Mr. Fuller is a member of the firm of Kessell, Kinnicut & Co., bankers, and Mr. Fabbri is a member of a well-known family of bankers of that name. Mr. Robinson is a business man and banker. Rev. Dr. Fay, a priest of the Catholic Church, was formerly the head of Newman School at Hackensack.

Red Cross activities in Italy were undertaken upon a large scale after receipt on November 2 of a cablegram from Ambassador Page to the effect that help was needed instantly.

Mr. Perkins cabled an estimate of the probable cost of operations for the immediate future. He stated it would be necessary to lay out at once \$800,870 for military relief, made up as follows:

Soldiers at the front.....	\$50,000
Surgical dressing services.....	30,000
Hospital services.....	415,870
Ambulance service.....	120,000
Canteen and rest houses.....	125,000
Administration.....	5,000

To render aid to the civilian population, \$602,590 has been appropriated. The War Council has authorized for the Surgical Dressings Service and the Hospital Service \$52,230.

## RED CROSS HELPS 10,000 FAMILIES IN THREE STATES

TIDING PEOPLE OVER PERIODS OF STRESS.

Home Service Sections Render Many Kinds of Assistance to Soldiers' and Sailors' Dependents.

About 10,000 dependent families of American soldiers and sailors are receiving material assistance or advice from Home Service Sections of Red Cross Chapters in the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross. This statement was made by Alexander M. Willson, Division Director of Civilian Relief. Three states, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, comprise the jurisdiction of the Division.

The majority of the families which already have applied to the Red Cross were in need of temporary assistance to tide them over until such time as the Government, through its War Risk Insurance Bureau, was prepared to provide for them. The Red Cross is giving many kinds of assistance to these families—assistance which ranges from outright gifts of money to free medical aid and advice.

Every week the number of families reported as seeking help from the Red Cross increases. The Red Cross is well equipped not only to assist the families already under its care but it is prepared, it has announced, to render service to many others. It wants to be informed of the plight of all persons experiencing want or worry as a result of the absence of a husband, father, son or brother who is in the service.

Various Kinds of Help. "People who are waiting for their allowances may feel that the Government is slow," said Mr. Willson, "but when we consider that the War Risk Insurance Bureau was organized in Washington only about the first of November, that the checks were being issued by the last of December—then we feel that the Government has organized this bureau with incredible speed.

"While the Home Service Sections of the Red Cross are prepared at all times to render all the help they can for dependent families, it is in a situation such as this, when dependents are waiting for allotments from the Government, that the Red Cross can render the most effective assistance to the families of our fighting men.

"Our work has infinite variety. What is more, it is confidential. We do everything, from giving families out right gifts of money to making merely a small loan or tracing a check or letter."

Where it is found that children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen have been sent to work the Red Cross makes it possible for them to be returned to school, even paying tuition for them at some practical schools, he said.

## RAINS HELP INDIAN VILLAGE

Good Rice Crops Grown in Abundant Moisture and Region is Noted for Good Cattle.

Sylhet is a city in the most curious part of India—the great, low lying, jungly, flooded, tea and rice districts of the far Southeast. Sylhet tea is known all over the peninsula.

So low do these regions lie that the heavy rains of the rainy season result in their being flooded for many months of the year. Though far inland, after the rains this is literally a sea, where all travel is by boat and even ships of some size can navigate. The torrential downpours flood the lower parts of the country to a depth of many feet. There is one little village at the base of the Khasia hills which had a measured rainfall of 60 feet in one year, an exchange says.

The villages of this curious district about Sylhet are set on the crest of hills. After the rains fall they are left high and dry. As a drying oil for boatmen and the children can swim almost as soon as they can walk, local markets are found among the hills where the canoe is in use. A craft not unlike the American is manufactured by hollowing out a tree trunk woodwork a bright, lustrous finish, very thin. Larger canoes, propelled by 20 paddles, are made in the same way. When certain mineral substances, known as tulusu and lo-shen are added to the wood oil and the resulting mass is heated for about two hours, kwan-keep diminutive cattle which feed on, or wood oil varnish, is produced largely on marsh grasses cut. From this wood oil varnish is used as a waboots. As a result of abundant food and lack of exercise, the cows grow fat and sleek to a degree unusual among the lean Indian cattle. Their added milk, butter and cheese are known as delicacies in the nearby cities. These same villages raise unusually fine rice, by planting before the rains begin. As the country is flooded, the stalks of the rice grow with the rising surface of the waters, so that rice stalks ten feet long may be seen when the floods recede.

## Woods Have Only Pleasant Memories

"I never" a wife told me in the Herald. "I have an unpleasant thing to say about the woods when he is leaving for work in the morning. If he has something in his mind that has annoyed me, I forget it. If there is a little worry to confide in him, I leave it for another time. Life, it seems to me, is very involved in the city, very uncertain. There are so many troubles and cars on the street, so many accidents every day that I would hate to think that my husband, in the middle of all the hurry and worry, carried an unpleasant picture of me—a picture that I had created! I would hate to think if anything did happen, that my face, when he saw it for the last time, had a frown on it. That's why I smile at him always when I say good-by in the morning—and let nothing but love shine out of my eyes!"

## Uses Chinese Wood Oil

Tung-yu, or wood oil, is widely used throughout China as a paint oil for buildings. The people are very expert at its use. As a drying oil for boatmen and the children can swim almost as soon as they can walk, local markets are found among the hills where the canoe is in use. A craft not unlike the American is manufactured by hollowing out a tree trunk woodwork a bright, lustrous finish, very thin. Larger canoes, propelled by 20 paddles, are made in the same way. When certain mineral substances, known as tulusu and lo-shen are added to the wood oil and the resulting mass is heated for about two hours, kwan-keep diminutive cattle which feed on, or wood oil varnish, is produced largely on marsh grasses cut. From this wood oil varnish is used as a waboots. As a result of abundant food and lack of exercise, the cows grow fat and sleek to a degree unusual among the lean Indian cattle. Their added milk, butter and cheese are known as delicacies in the nearby cities. These same villages raise unusually fine rice, by planting before the rains begin. As the country is flooded, the stalks of the rice grow with the rising surface of the waters, so that rice stalks ten feet long may be seen when the floods recede.

## Be Careful With Electricity

Some safety hints for the wise, which are intended to guard against serious accidents and a possible loss of life, are being sent out broadcast by the electric light companies. From them may be selected the following: Do not cover an electric globe with paper or cloth. It may start a fire. Do not hang an ordinary lamp cord over a wall or metal work. Do not leave a cord connected when you are through with it. Do not touch any wire that is down on the ground, whether it is an electric, telephone or guy wire. In an emergency, remove a wire with an instrument equipped with a wooden handle, keeping the full length of the handle between yourself and the wire. —Popular Science Monthly.

## Evolution of Wheeled Vehicles

When the world awakened from its apparent long sleep of the middle ages, during which the art of vehicle construction, like all other arts, sank into oblivion, manufacturing was revived and from this awakening, about 1400 A. D., marked improvements are found. Emperors and kings vied with each other in the effort to outshone and outclass one another, and through this rivalry we note substantial advancement. In 1500 A. D. it is said there were only three coaches in Paris, and within the next century we find the feudal lords throughout continental Europe supplying themselves with the most extravagant and luxurious of equipages, some costing more than \$10,000 each.

## Power of the Spirit in Deafness

The central thought which comes from my experience with deafness is that remedy—recompense. There, elsewhere, is the natural law—that nature seeks always to balance itself. The only tripartite diameter in deafness is that one which would deposit the spirit—the will; and here again, as was shown in depression, it is within the personality, within the bounds and terms of our own understanding, that exist the laws which reorganize the discordant condition and restore the mind with its conscious power to dominate the forces and events of life. —Margaret Baldwin, in Atlantic.

## Mirrors for Household Decoration

They say that a man's first thought on entering a room is, "Where is there a place to sit down?" but a woman's first thought is, "Where is there a mirror?" It has been woman's thought from time immemorial, for from time immemorial there have been mirrors. It is only since the beginning of the sixteenth century that mirrors have been used as articles of household furniture and decoration, and there are few women of the present day who do not realize and make use of their artistic value in adorning their homes.

## Man's Index Finger

Man's hand is arranged in a finger length like the monkey's. The primitive plan was for the third finger to be the longest, the fourth the next in length, the second the next, the fifth the little finger the next, while the thumb is shortest of all. The editor of the Journal of American Heredity declares that it is very conspicuously different that the first or index finger is at least class one another, and through this rivalry we note substantial advancement. In 1500 A. D. it is said there were only three coaches in Paris, and within the next century we find the feudal lords throughout continental Europe supplying themselves with the most extravagant and luxurious of equipages, some costing more than \$10,000 each.

## The Opium Habit

There are three different forms of taking opium. Some people, for example the Turks, eat it; others, like the Chinese, smoke it, while the inhabitants of more civilized countries usually drink it as laudanum. The drug is obtained from the unripe fruit of the common white poppy. Incisions are made in the heads of the plant, from which a creamy juice exudes, hardening on its exposure to the air. This is scraped off and made up into small cakes, in which form it is sold. The confirmed opium eater or smoker reduces himself to an indescribably wretched state of mind and body, and very seldom lives to be forty if the practice has been acquired at an early period in life.

## Yiddish

Yiddish is a term used to designate a language which is spoken at the present moment by some millions of people. Strictly speaking, Yiddish is not a language, nor a dialect, but a jargon—the jargon used by Judeo-German communities dwelling chiefly in Germany and Russia, and by the immigrants coming from those countries to the United States. Yiddish owes its existence to the persecution to which the Jews were subjected in Germany at the time of the Reformation. Its essential basis is high German, with an admixture of Hebrew and Slavic elements.

## New Material for Paper Pulp

Experiments in the use of kangaroo grass for paper pulp have been carried out in Australia. There are millions of tons of kangaroo grass growing in Queensland. It produces about two crops a year, and is considered a crop to the country. It resembles, especially at the time of the Reformation, its essential basis is high German, with an admixture of Hebrew and Slavic elements.

## 1,000 MEN NEEDED FOR MOTOR SERVICE BY RED CROSS IN FRANCE

More than 1,000 motor truck drivers, mechanics and helpers are needed immediately by the American Red Cross for service in France. The duties of these men will be to operate and repair the Red Cross motor trucks which transport supplies to war hospitals. Men in this service will receive pay and expenses.

A recruiting office has been opened at the headquarters of the Atlantic Division under Mr. J. Leo Skelley of the Red Cross Foreign Transportation Department Recruiting Service. Applicants must be over thirty-one years of age.

## RED CROSS ISSUES CALL TO NURSES FOR WAR SERVICE

Statement Says Between 30,000 and 40,000 Will Be Needed in a Short Time.

A call to qualified nurses to enlist for war service has been issued by the American Red Cross Nursing Service, the mobilizing agency for nurses for the United States Army and Navy. Attention is called also to the imperative need for an increased enrollment in training schools so that fully qualified nurses may be released from civilian hospitals for military service.

Citing an estimate of the Surgeon-General's office that the Army alone will need between 30,000 and 40,000 nurses in short time, the Red Cross Nursing Service makes it clear that the present average enrollment of 1,000 a month falls far short of the military needs of the Government. Moreover, it is asserted, the Allies are depending upon this country to supplement their nursing service.

The fact that the recruiting of nurses does not keep pace with the military needs does not indicate that the women in the nursing profession are slackers, according to Miss Jane A. Delano, Chairman of the Red Cross Nursing Service. It indicates merely that the sudden and extraordinarily heavy demand for nurses has not been thoroughly realized by the women available for this service.

As demands grow daily, the problem of home nursing for civilian needs becomes harder to solve. It is estimated by the Army Nurses' Corps that over 30,000 nurses will be needed, on the basis of the present estimates, for an Army of 1,000,000 men.

Statistics prepared at the headquarters of the Red Cross Nursing Service in Washington show that there are between 80,000 and 90,000 registered nurses in the United States. Of this number approximately 18,500 are enrolled Red Cross nurses, the majority of whom are in active service or ready for mobilization for specified purpose. The Red Cross enrollment forms the reserve of the United States Army Nurses' Corps and the United States Navy Nurses' Corps.

Already 1,700 nurses have been equipped and sent abroad by the Red Cross Nursing Service. For service at home the Red Cross has provided 1,500 nurses. More than 2,000 additional nurses have been organized into units which now are ready for mobilization.

Red Cross nurses also are doing special work in sanitary zones surrounding cantonments. Eighty-nine are serving in a public health detachment under the American Red Cross in France. Twelve public health nurses are in Roumania, three in Greece and one in Serbia.

Requirements Modified. All Red Cross nurses assigned to duty in military hospitals automatically become members of the Army or Navy Nurses' Corps and are no longer under the supervision or direction of the Red Cross. These nurses, when on active duty, are entitled to the same Government war risk insurance as Army or Navy officers and enlisted men.

To meet the increasing demands of the Army and Navy Nurses' Corps the Red Cross has modified somewhat the former requirements for enrollment. The age limit is lowered to twenty-one years, and in special cases nurses over forty may be accepted. Small schools for training nurses have been placed on the accredited list.

Since the entrance of the United States in the war the number of pupils entering nurses' training schools has increased 20 per cent. Within the last few days the Red Cross has recruited and equipped a group of 100 nurses for the Army Nurses' Corps for service with the British Expeditionary Forces at the request of the British Government. It has also mobilized several highly specialized groups of nurses for orthopedic, psychiatric and facial surgery hospitals, as well as mobile operating units and other important groups.

Distributing Depot Opened. The Atlantic division has established at 1018-22 Washington street, Hoboken, a distributing depot for outfitting the soldiers embarking for service abroad. This depot will be under the direction of Mrs. A. G. Olney.

## To Laugh At—A Lost Hat.

One of the funniest jokes in the world is a man whose hat has been knocked in or ruined by being blown off—provided, of course, it be the other fellow's hat! All the jokes in the world are based on a few elemental ideas, and this is one of them. The sight of other people in trouble is nearly always funny. This is human nature. If you will observe your own conduct whenever you see a friend falling down on the street, you will find that nine times out of ten your first impulse is to laugh and your second is to run and help him get up. To be polite you will dust off his clothes and ask him if he has hurt himself. But when it is over you cannot resist telling him how funny he looked when he was falling. The man with the real sense of humor is the man who can put himself in the spectator's place and laugh at his own misfortunes.—Bert Williams, in the American Magazine.

## Brontides.

Mystery still attaches to certain explosive sounds, heard in various parts of the world and known to science as "brontides." On the coast of Belgium these sounds seem to come from the sea, and are called locally "mistliefers." In the Ganges delta of India, similar sounds are called "Barisal guns." Brontides are well known in some parts of Italy, where they bear a great variety of names. In Haiti a sound of this character is known as the "gouffre," while in parts of Australia it is called the "desert sound." Brontides mostly take the form of muffled detonations, of indefinite direction. Probably they are of subterranean origin. Studies of their eccentricities in the transmission of sound through the atmosphere lead to the conclusion that some of the sounds hitherto reported as brontides were really due to cannoning or blasting.—Popular Science Monthly.

## United States' Debt to Sweden.

It was in June, 1782, when, upon the order of Gustavus III, the Swedish minister in Paris, Gustavus Philip Creutz, got into communication with the American agent in France, Benjamin Franklin. It was nothing less than a treaty with Europe's oldest kingdom which Creutz offered to Franklin and the free states of his land. Franklin himself, as well as his countrymen, grasped with thankfulness the offered hand, the treaty was signed in April, 1783, and remained of practical benefit to the United States for a long time. The most important aspect of the matter was, however, that this treaty signified the introduction of the United States into international relations as a recognized power.

## Sheep With Gold-Filled Teeth.

The sheep of the western islands of Scotland are almost as stylish as the dogs that ride in automobiles on our own Fifth avenue. In New York city the canine aristocrats have occasional cavities in their teeth filled with gold, but the Scottish sheep have their entire set gold-plated before they have any chance to decay. The gold-plating is due to gold dust in the soil. As early as 1536 Hector Boece, bishop of Aberdeen, speaks of the remarkable appearance of the sheep that roam the "golden mountain" in central Aberdeenshire. Their wool is yellow, their flesh is red, flecked, as it were, with saffron, and their teeth are the hue of gold, he says.—Popular Science Monthly.

## Beautiful Things Worth While.

Bear bravely the burden which so many other shoulders have borne. Instant upon a little time daily for the contemplation of beauty. A walk through the clean air, the coming up of the sun and the long shadows and rich gold bars of the winter morning, a Japanese bulb in a porcelain jar, a load of straw caught by the sun on a hill, the cattle strewn about the stacks, the woman above the cradle, the frost crystals on the pane, the poise of a cat, children at play, one or all these things arrest the beauty lover. Let there be moments when the hubbub is hushed and when beauty of color, sound or some peculiar and exquisite composition may sink into the waiting soul.—Buffalo Express.

## To Win Success.

When you can put yourself into things you do they are bound to succeed. Most failures result from half-heartedness. Or it may be that the principle is wrong. Time has not been taken to make sure that you are right. When you can put your whole soul into things you are bound to carry conviction. To this you must add your toll. Half-hearted endeavor will not make even a good thing go. To get dividends out you must put energy and brain in. You must "know thyself" as Socrates said. You must know your job as A. T. Stewart did the mercantile business and then success will come.—Pennsylvania Grit.

## Place Work Above Riches.

There is a story told of a multimillionaire who was offered \$60,000,000 for his holdings in the business in which he had been interested for many years. He went home that night and consulted his wife, who had been his good comrade in all of his business adventures, and she said: "Don't you sell! What would I do with the money, and what would you do without your work?" And the multimillionaire didn't sell. This is just an illustration that goes to show that money can have only a certain value, and that value is not comparable with the value of work.—Exchange.