

the part of all the nations of this hemisphere has been possible. It should be acknowledged, of course, that every nation necessarily reserves to itself liberty of action in certain situations of a near neighborhood concern, such as confronts the United States on its Mexican frontier. The right to "abate a nuisance" must always exist where no other adequate or immediate remedy exists. But we should not confuse questions of this character with the Monroe Doctrine itself, which is much more comprehensive in scope.

Considered in its most general aspect, the Doctrine is intended to provide on this hemisphere a sanction for the fundamental rights of international law, namely, the rights of existence and of independence. The United States, of course, has always been the champion as well as the protagonist of this great idea. But there should be no inherent logical difficulty in converting this declaration of rights into a Pan-American declaration. It is not inconceivable that the other nations of this continent might be willing to give a generous recognition to the pre-eminent rôle of the United States in the vigilant assertion and defence of these basic rights of nations.

The precise *modus operandi* in every case arising under a Pan-American doctrine might readily present diplomatic complications of a delicate nature. Complications are bound to arise in any event; but the situation created by the League of Nations would seem to demand that the American nations should themselves first come to an understanding concerning their special and *regional* interests before they commit themselves to a large undertaking likely to create further friction and still greater embarrassments.

PHILIP MARSHALL BROWN.

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ORGANIZATION

Although primarily it is the duty and responsibility of a nation, through its official authorities, to safeguard the health and physical well-being of its own people, nevertheless there has always been an opportunity and need for voluntary agencies to supplement and contribute to the usefulness of the official agencies charged with these responsibilities in every country. Furthermore, the support of an enlightened public opinion is indispensable.

Just as there has always been need in time of war for the assistance of the National Red Cross organizations as an auxiliary force for supplementing the work of the responsible authorities of their respective nations in caring for the wounded and the sick, and in looking after the comfort and welfare of the fighting forces, so also there has always been need in time of peace as well as in time of war for the assistance of voluntary organizations in supplementing the work of the national authorities in performing the like services for the civilian population of their respective nations.

So again in the wider field of international action it has been found essential in time of war to give effect to the humane provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1906 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick of the fighting forces, by utilizing the voluntary and unofficial agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva. That Committee by reason of its impartial neutrality and splendid record of helpfulness in war service has been welcomed by all belligerent nations as the approved medium of communication between belligerent enemies, not only for the voluntary relief work carried on by the National Red Cross organizations, but also for the official work undertaken by the belligerent governments themselves for the relief of prisoners of war and the fulfilment generally of the requirements of that convention.

So, likewise, in the field of international relief work in time of peace it has become increasingly evident that in consequence of the unhealthy physical and living conditions of many of the people of the world, and in recognition of the principle that the betterment of the health and well-being of mankind is a matter which concerns all nations and is essential to the full enjoyment of the blessings of peace, there is urgent and immediate need for all the remedial and preventive work in this field that can be supplied, both by official and volunteer organizations, in addition to the emergency work hitherto undertaken of mitigating the suffering resulting from famine, fire, flood and similar calamities.

Here again the service demanded comes especially within the scope of the Red Cross principle of serving humanity, supported by the enlightened spirit of self-sacrifice and human sympathy, which was so widely stimulated by the war that it attained something of the moral force of an organized religion. The enlistment of the same voluntary effort in the service of humanity in every country is needed

in time of peace fully as much as in time of war, and, in order that the great resources and strength of the vast organizations which the National Red Cross societies had developed during the war should be preserved and utilized in time of peace for carrying on the Red Cross movement, the new international Red Cross organization was established while the peace negotiations were in progress in Paris last year.

The name of this new organization is the League of Red Cross Societies, and its articles of association were adopted on May 5, 1919. The articles of association state that:

It is contemplated that this League will work in complete accord and co-operation with the International Committee [at Geneva], that by supplementing the war-time activity of the International Committee, with an intelligent peace-time program it will prove a natural complement to the International Committee, that this co-operation will in due time lead to an organic union with the International Committee, whose continuing functions are essential to the world, and that as a result of this combined effort the best traditions of the Red Cross will be maintained and made of ever-widening usefulness to the peoples of the world.

The articles further provide that the League shall be non-political, non-governmental, and non-sectarian, and its objects are stated to be:

(1) To encourage and promote in every country in the world the establishment and development of a duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organization, having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world, and to secure the coöperation of such organizations for these purposes. (2) To promote the welfare of mankind by furnishing a medium for bringing within the reach of all the peoples the benefits to be derived from present known facts and new contributions to science and medical knowledge and their application. (3) To furnish a medium for co-ordinating relief work in case of great national or international calamities.

The original members of the League are the American, British, French, Italian and Japanese National Red Cross Societies, which are described in the articles of association as the founder members. Any other Red Cross society which pursues the objects of the League and is authorized in conformity with the principles of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva and is duly authorized by the government of the country in which it is situated, is eligible for admission to the League.

The membership of the League already comprises the National

Red Cross Societies of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Each member of the League reserves to itself entire freedom of action at all times with reference to its own policies and activities, and any member of the League is at liberty to withdraw from the League at any time by giving written notice.

The control of the affairs of the League is vested in a General Council and a Board of Governors.

The General Council of the League consists of representatives of all the National Red Cross organizations which are members of the League.

The Board of Governors consists of not more than fifteen members, each of whom is appointed by a National Red Cross organization, and two *ex-officio* members, who are respectively the Director General and Secretary General of the League.

The American, British, French, Italian and Japanese National Red Cross organizations as founder members of the League are each entitled permanently to appoint one member of the Board. The original members appointed by these organizations to constitute the Board of Governors upon the organization of the society were: Mr. Henry P. Davison, Chairman, representing the American Red Cross, Sir Arthur Stanley, representing the British Red Cross, Count Jean de Kergorlay, representing the French Red Cross, Count Giuseppe Frascara, representing the Italian Red Cross, and Prof. Dr. Arata Ninagawa, representing the Japanese Red Cross.

The national organizations authorized to appoint the other members of the Board are designated by the General Council, half of the number being designated every two years, and each national organization so designated being entitled during a period of four years to appoint one member of the Board.

No authority rests in the League to obligate any member in any manner whatsoever, unless such member has previously authorized the Board of Governors in writing to incur such obligation.

In order to give this new organization an international status and sanction, the Peace Conference at Paris, at the suggestion of the organizers of the League of Red Cross Societies, inserted in the

Covenant of the League of Nations the following provision which appears as Article XXV thereof:

The Members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.

The first meeting of the General Council of the League of Red Cross Societies was held at Geneva in March of this year.

CHANDLER P. ANDERSON.

THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the American Bar Association was held at Boston in the first week of September last. The session was of interest in many ways and the attendance unusually large and representative. Lord Finlay, sometime Lord Chancellor, was the distinguished representative of Great Britain present, and Mr. Justice Riddell of the Supreme Court of Ontario was heard with attentive appreciation. It is necessary here, however, to confine ourselves to that portion of the proceedings having to do with international law.

First, the Standing Committee on International Law presented a report covering twenty-two printed pages. It briefly outlined the negotiations which resulted in the armistice between the Allied and Associated Powers and the Central Powers. It submitted an abbreviated summary of the peace treaty, spoken of as the Treaty of Versailles. It called attention to the division of opinion concerning it which had arisen and which tended toward party lines. It mentioned that the President had promised full explanations and deprecated untimely discussion (the report was filed by requirement in June) and it added: "The vast scope of the matters, the inconclusive state of the documents, the limits of publicity not wholly removed, and the request of the President, make it improper for your committee to do more than summarize the situation without assuming to express a conclusion or advise action."

The committee, however, expressed the ardent hope that the interests of the world in a stable peace might be reconciled with the security of the sovereignty and independence of the United States.