

**CONFERENCE ON
WAR RELIEF AND
PERSONAL SERVICE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649289936

Conference on war relief and personal service by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**CONFERENCE ON
WAR RELIEF AND
PERSONAL SERVICE**

CONFERENCE
ON
WAR RELIEF
AND
PERSONAL SERVICE

ORGANISED BY CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETIES AND
GUILDS OF HELP

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER
JUNE 10, 11, & 12, 1915

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
FOURTH AVENUE & 30TH STREET, NEW YORK
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, AND MADRAS

1915

CONTENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 10.

MORNING.	PAGE
'The Assistance of Sailors and Soldiers, their Families and Dependants, since the Outbreak of War.' (Chairman: Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., M.P.)	1
Papers read by:—	
I. The Countess Ferrers (Vice-President of the N.E. London District of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association)	6
II. A. M. Daniel, Esq. (Hon. Secretary of the Scarborough Council of Social Welfare)	15
III. Miss E. H. Kelly (Joint Hon. Secretary of the Portsmouth Services Committee, &c.)	20
Discussion	30
AFTERNOON.	
'The Aftermath of War.' (Chairman: Cyril Jackson, Esq., Chairman of the London County Council)	50
I. 'The Discharged Soldier and Sailor.' (Paper read by C. E. B. Russell, Esq.)	50
Discussion	57
II. 'The Widow and the Orphan.' (Paper read by Councillor Eleanor Rathbone, Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association)	78
Discussion	88

FRIDAY, JUNE 11.

MORNING.	
'The Future of the Local Representative Committee.' (Chairman: J. R. Roxburgh, Esq., Chairman of the Provincial Subcommittee of the London Charity Organisation Society)	100
Paper read by F. G. D'Aeth, Esq. (Secretary of the Liverpool Council of Voluntary Aid)	102
Discussion	111

AFTERNOON.	PAGE
'The Development of Personal Service.' (Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Personal Service Association) . . .	140
Paper read by H. L. Woolcombe, Esq. (General Organising Secretary of the London Charity Organisation Society and Secretary of the Cavendish Association)	141
Discussion	143

SATURDAY, JUNE 12.

'Mutual Registration of Assistance.' (Chairman: Bernard Bosanquet, Esq., LL.D., D.C.L., Chairman of Council of the London Charity Organisation Society. Paper read by the Rev. A. G. Lloyd, Birmingham Citizens' Committee) . . .	167
Discussion	173
Chairman's Closing Address	201
List of Members and Delegates	205

CONFERENCE
ON
WAR RELIEF AND PERSONAL SERVICE.

Held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, Friday,
and Saturday, June 10, 11, and 12, 1915.

THURSDAY MORNING.

SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON, Bart., M.P., in the Chair.

Subject: **The Assistance of Sailors and Soldiers :
their Families and Dependants, since the
Outbreak of War.**

The CHAIRMAN: YOUR Grace, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I have been asked to read the following letters of regret for absence from the meeting. The first is from the Archbishop of York, who says: 'I am much interested to hear of the proposed Conference, and wish most heartily that I could be present, especially during the discussion of the subject fixed for June 11; but I fear it is impossible. I am held up by many engagements in this part of the world, fixed long ago. I must content myself with wishing every success to the Conference.' Then we have a note from Lady St. Cyres, who writes to say that she is away in the country, under doctor's orders, for rest, and fears that she will not be able to be present. Mrs. H. B. Irving expresses regret at not being able to be present, so does Miss Macarthur. We have similar letters from Lady Roberts, Lady French, the Bishop of Winchester, Lady Eglinton, and Lord Grey.

I should like first to be allowed to express my sense of the compliment which has been paid to me in asking me to take the Chair at the first meeting of this Conference, a Conference which is one of very great importance. Although it may not appear very much in the public eye at the present moment, when all our minds are concentrated on the necessity and the duty of seeing this War through to a victorious conclusion, undoubtedly in the very near future the need for this Conference will be self-evident, and it is right and wise, I think, therefore, that those of us who have been interested in these questions, and especially in the subject that is before the meeting for this morning, and who have had a considerable amount of experience in dealing with questions of relief, should meet together to discuss and decide what are the best steps that we ought all to pursue.

I heard the story a few days ago of an American gentleman who was over in this country just at the time when it was being frequently alleged by Germany that the War had been engineered by England. His remark was this: that any stranger who came over to this country and saw how absolutely unprepared from a military point of view the country was could have no doubt that that accusation was entirely false. Now, if that accusation is false with regard to the question of military preparation, what is to be said about the preparation to be made to meet the demands upon the charitable public and upon public funds for the maintenance of the widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors, and also for the maintenance of those who have been disabled in the War? We were equally unprepared for that, and one of the most marvellous things that has come out of this War is the way in which the British public has organised itself in the shortest possible time in order to meet the demands which are being made upon it. Now, I think that one ought to say this much—that very little blame can really be attached to the War Office itself. It was suddenly called upon to meet an emergency, which it could not possibly have foreseen, with a staff which was entirely and absolutely insufficient to meet that demand. It was overwhelmed with work, and overwhelmed with new regulations which were constantly coming in. Under the old regulations separation allowances

and allowances of that kind were only paid to those who were married on the strength, as I may call it—who were officially recognised as married; but directly the War broke out the Government announced that this regulation was to be abolished, and that separation allowances were to be made in the case of all married soldiers. Well, the first thing, naturally, that occurs to anybody connected with this kind of arrangement is that the War Office did not know what soldiers were married and what soldiers were not married, and therefore the whole of that had to be ascertained first. The next thing that had to be done after that was to discover where all these good people lived, where the wives and children lived, and it naturally took a very considerable amount of time before the addresses could be ascertained and the marriage certificates and the proper evidence placed before the authorities.

The next complication arose from the fact that dependants' allowances had to be provided for. That was an equally complicated—in fact, rather more complicated—question, because it involved several financial matters which had to be very carefully considered and gone into. It is obvious that the staff of the War Office under these circumstances had to be enormously increased, and it had to be increased by people unaccustomed to dealing with questions of the kind; and then also the new regulations which were brought in were new even to the old staff. Therefore there is small ground for misunderstanding the reason for the delay that has occurred in dealing with these questions.

Now, some method had to be found immediately to meet the emergency, and, as I have said, the country rose in a most wonderful way to meet these difficulties at once. The National Relief Fund, as we all know, was very quickly subscribed to, and an enormous sum of money was raised, but even then we should not have been able to get along at all if it had not been for the existence of such a Society as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, who very nobly stepped into the breach and filled it with a rapidity for which they deserve all compliment and all congratulation. A very large number of people who had had nothing to do with the Society previously sacrificed time and labour and devoted themselves for many months, and they are still devoting them-

selves, to dealing with cases that need assistance before the separation allowances can be obtained. I have a distinct recollection of the Society's action a good many years ago during the Boer War. At that period it had been in a state of—may I say?—suspended animation for a considerable time, and difficulties faced the Society, and those difficulties were very great. I have a distinct recollection of five ladies who went down into a rather rough quarter of the East End of London with practically no knowledge of the streets, and were overwhelmed by an enormous queue of people standing outside the door demanding instant relief before any proper inquiries could be made. The lessons of the Boer War have been carefully studied and learned by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and therefore when this War broke out they were much more ready to step into the breach and much more equipped with experience and knowledge than they had been for years before. There was a time, at the outbreak of the War, when the action of this Society was very severely criticised in the House of Commons. I remember a speech that was made by one member complaining bitterly of the inquisitorial methods of the Society, and practically hoping that they would not meet with support. Well, I am glad to say that that has all passed away. I had the pleasure a little time ago of taking one of the very prominent members of the Labour Party down into the district in which I was taking an interest at the time, and taking him round and showing him how the whole of the work was done. When he came away he said to me, 'How much does it cost you to run?' 'Oh,' I said, 'as a matter of fact it costs us practically nothing at all, because all the service is voluntary.' He asked me where all the people came from, and I said, 'I have not the least idea. All I know is that they came from various parts of London. They felt the need for their services and voluntarily placed themselves at the disposal of the Committee.' He was so much impressed at the skill that was shown by the workers of the Society in that district that a week or two ago he told me that he made it his duty now, in addressing public meetings upon the subject of the War, to give the greatest possible amount of praise to the action that the Society had taken in London.