

## Red Cross Work.

### RESULT OF THE PEACE CONGRESS.

WE publish below the text of the scheme submitted to the Sub-Committee of the Red Cross at the Brussels Conference for the adaptation of the Geneva Convention to naval warfare, and presented to the Sub-Committee as drawn up by M. Louis Renault. We are informed that the British Government objects to be bound by the new stipulations of this Committee, and it is possible that some of the other Powers may take the same line, reserving to themselves the right to apply the new stipulations as they may occur, but there is, nevertheless, no doubt that practical results will be the outcome of the Conference.

### THE TEXT OF THE SCHEME.

Article I.—Military hospital ships, that is to say, those ships which are built or fitted out by States specially and solely for the purpose of taking help to wounded, sick and shipwrecked, and the names of which shall have been communicated, before they are employed, to the belligerent Powers, shall be respected, and cannot be captured during the period of hostilities. These ships shall not be assimilated to war vessels as regards their stay in a neutral port.

Article II.—Hospital ships equipped entirely or in part at the cost of private individuals or of relief societies officially recognized, shall be equally respected, and exempted from capture, if the belligerent Power to which they are attached has given them an official commission, and has notified their names to the hostile Power, before they are employed. These ships shall be in possession of a document from the competent authority stating that they were under its control while being fitted out and at their final departure.

Article III.—The hospital ships fitted out entirely, or in part, at the expense of private persons or of officially recognized societies of neutral countries, shall be respected and exempted from capture if the neutral Power to which they are attached has given them an official commission and has notified their names to the belligerent Powers before they are employed.

Article IV.—The ships which are mentioned in Articles I., II., III., shall take help and assistance to the wounded, sick, or shipwrecked of the belligerents, without distinction of nationality.

The Governments shall pledge themselves not to utilise these ships for any military purpose. These ships shall not impede in any manner the movements of the combatants. During and after a battle they will act at their own risk and peril.

The belligerents shall possess the right of controlling and visiting the ships, and shall be able to reject their aid, order them away, oblige

them to take a given direction, put a Commissioner on board, and even detain them should the gravity of the circumstances require it. The belligerents shall, so far as possible, inscribe in the log of the hospital ships the orders which they shall give them.

Article V.—The military hospital ships shall be distinguished by being painted white outside with a horizontal green band, about one metre and a half broad. The other ships mentioned in Articles II. and III. shall be distinguished by being painted white on the outside with a red horizontal band about one metre and a half broad. The boats of the ship just mentioned, as well as the smaller craft which may be set apart for hospital service, shall be distinguished by similar painting. All the hospital ships shall make themselves known by hoisting, together with their national flag, the white flag with the red cross, prescribed by the Geneva Convention.

Article VI.—Trading vessels, yachts or neutral boats, carrying the wounded, sick or shipwrecked men of the belligerents may not be captured on account of this transportation, but they will be liable to be captured if they commit any violations of their neutrality.

Article VII.—The religious, medical and hospital staff of all ships captured shall be inviolable and may not be made prisoners of war. They will carry away with them, on leaving the ship, all objects and instruments of surgery which are their private property. This staff shall continue to carry on their functions as long as it may be necessary, and will be allowed to retire when the Commander-in-Chief shall deem it possible. The belligerents are bound to allow the full pay to the staff which shall fall into their hands.

Article VIII.—Sailors and soldiers on board ship who are either wounded or ill, no matter to what nation they may belong, shall be protected and tended by their captors.

Article IX.—The sick, wounded or shipwrecked men of one belligerent Power who fall into the hands of another shall be prisoners of war. It belongs to the victor to decide, according to circumstances, whether they shall be kept, sent to a port of his country, or to a neutral port, or to a port belonging to the enemy. In this last event, the prisoners thus delivered up to their country shall not be allowed to serve during the war.

Article X.—Those sick, wounded or shipwrecked persons who are disembarked at a neutral port with the consent of the local authority shall be guarded by the latter in such a way that they shall not be able to take part again in the operations of war.

The expenses of their keep in hospital and under guard will be borne by the State to which belong the sick, wounded and shipwrecked men.

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