

Le Comité permanent des Conférences internationales du Service Social exprime sa profonde reconnaissance à toutes les institutions, à toutes les personnes qui ont contribué au succès de la réunion de Francfort.

Il adresse un pressant appel aux Comités nationaux de service social pour qu'ils s'associent à la préparation de la Troisième Conférence et compte sur le dévouement dont ils ont donné tant de preuves déjà en faveur des progrès du Service Social dans le monde.

PREFACE

The International Conferences of Social Work are answering a longfelt need. As far back as 1847, the International Penitentiary Congress of Brussels proclaimed the necessity of "establishing contact between the persons engaged, in the different countries, in improving the lot of the working classes and the indigent poor". A similar resolution was passed by the International Statistical Congress at Brussels in 1853. In 1855, the "Société d'Economie charitable de Paris", the chairman of which was the Vicomte de Melun, organized an International Charity Conference in connexion with the Universal Exhibition, the outcome of which were the International Charity Congresses of Brussels (1856) and Frankfort-on-Main (1857). At the latter meeting, it was resolved to set up an International Charity Association. It was not until 1889, however, that the International Society for the Study of Public and Private Welfare Problems was founded in Paris by the First International Congress on Statutory and Voluntary Assistance (Paris, 1889), followed by the Congresses of Geneva (1896), Paris (1900), Milan (1906), Copenhagen (1910) and Paris (1928).

Furthermore, the National Conferences of Social Work which, since 1874, had met each year in the United States, invited foreign speakers to the meetings at Atlantic City in 1919 and at Washington in 1923. These Conferences, which bring together several thousands of delegates from different parts of the United States and Canada and are attended by social workers, university professors, educationists, civil servants, hygienists, doctors, nurses, judges and statisticians, have a much wider scope than the Congresses on Statutory and Voluntary Assistance, since they deal also with education, provident institutions, hygiene, child welfare, the family, labour conditions and criminology.

The increasingly close relations which have been established between these different fields, and the brilliant contribution made by the National Conferences of Social Work to the progress of public and private welfare in North America, led inevitably to the idea of holding international conferences of social work.

This project, conceived by Dr. René Sand, Technical Counsellor of the League of Red Cross Societies, was favourably received by the National Conference, by the American Association of Social Workers, by the Russell Sage, Milbank, Laura Spelman Rockefeller and Common-

wealth Foundations Endowment for Int. The Foundations supplemented by o Cross Societies, the American National Societies agreed to zation Committee Masaryková, and n

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