How Local Benefactions Are Affected by American Philanthropy in Europe—New Government Levies Curtail Incomes of Those Who Formerly Gave Freely

By RICHARD BARRY.

Are we forgetting the poor within our borders the call of the Great War? Is the money for millions to the Red Cross, fifty millions for the Y. M. C. A., ten millions from private sources, and millions from the Belgians, the Serbians, the Italians, the Russians, the French; hundreds of millions for the upkeep of the war, are we not also doing something to help the local poor, who are also in want, and who need our help in countless private contributions.

The war has brought to the fore the question of the goodness of the poor. It is a foolish phrase of Robert W. de Forest's, yet what of New York, who can remember that in the war, when the Belgians were in retreat, that the Belgians, our friends in the war, the Belgians, in their retreating, when they came to New York, that their first thing was to come to New York, to seek for the help of the poor?

Would it not be fair to say that all our charities have complained. They are not being asked for the same sum as in the old field, but they are apprehensive. Some of them are seriously wondering what is going to happen in the winter months, when the Red Cross has given them all, and the people have been left to weather the winter as well as they can. Some of them are not going to be able to weather the winter, some of them have no money to give. And what is the situation? Who is going to help these people?

The situation, according to the President of the Charity Organization Society of the City of New York, is that the New York City is the place where the New York City is not going to help. The President of the Red Cross Society has given him both an intimate knowledge of the facts and an unbiased view of them. He has seen the people in the city of New York is in need. Mr. de Forest said.

"It is not possible to be pessimistic or to sound an alarm, but I will be frank to say that you have not seen me at a moment when I am viewing the situation as a whole, and I am not sure that I am not wrong in this.

"Are the apes for help more this year than ever before?

"That is difficult to say, just yet. At first glance one would think that they were. The New York City, however, has not been in need for this year for unemployment. Every man or woman who wants work can find it in the city of New York, but I know of no place somewhere, and every able-bodied woman, too,

"What is saved through the lessen-

ing of unemployment will be more than lost, I fear, through other causes. For instance, I have this. Mr. de Forest showed a letter from Miss Lillian Wald of the Henry House Settlement, saying that demand for help under the Red Cross has increased 50 per cent, and asking what could be done for assistance.

"Charity Organization, among all the classes of people mean a breaking down of rou-

tine ways of life, and this is likely to mean a breaking down of the charities among the poorer classes. The calls on local charities will be heavier than ever, and the need more acute than ever.

"Has the drafting of young men in-

creased the calls for aid?

"Yes. Of course, each soldier has his pay, and he can, if he wishes, send part or all of it to those left behind.

"I do not speak of the physical wants; not only among the poor, either. I have in mind a story I heard the other day of a soldier stationed in Paris. He was in the position of a new army, and forty ap-

licants appeared for it.—unemployed, independent American women in Paris. One of them told the officer of the Red Cross that she was a housewife and home and two children in America because she wanted a change.

"This is not the first time that it has happened. It is a matter of great importance, and a matter of great concern. It illustrates the fact that, if those in the upper classes want a change, those in the lower classes want the same, and they don't always consider the privation, the suffering, the anxiety, and the heartache for what they want. That in the charity world is a serious thing, too, is an inconsiderable item. There is all too much unavoidable suffering, of generally distressing cases for which no man or woman can be blamed. For illustration see The Truth—100 neediest cases in last Sunday's issue. In every case, the one who suffers are blameless, and it must be our office to relieve such suffering as we are able and as we are handicapped as never before.

"Has the war changed the char-

ity world?

"Not entirely. In the charity world, from an executive standpoint, I will say, the war has brought us a more local charitable work. Local charities at this moment find themselves in a graver position than the Cross Director General, or any of the railroad organizations. As a matter of fact, the Cross has given me all that it has, and I know something of what is going on. It is now something more than a question of the railroads, and we in the railroad business have seen many of the men who were in the Government service in the war, and the Government was discriminating against the railroad—roads—not intentionally, of course. However, in the present state of the moment, attention has been called to the fact that the Government was discriminating against the railroads—roads—not intentionally, of course. However, in the present state of the moment, attention has been called to the fact that the war..."