

An anniversary

Fifty years ago, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the ICRC by the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament. This news was given to Geneva by a despatch on December 10, 1917 from Christiana. The Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge¹ expressed itself as follows on the subject.

The International Committee is aware of the value of this high distinction of which it is the recipient. It fully appreciates the honour it has been given, especially in view of the large number of serious contestants. To this it pays tribute to its predecessors and those who showed it the way to be followed, to Gustave Moynier, its President for forty years and to its actual President, Mr. G. Ador, whom it is entitled to name, since he is at present performing other duties and that it is due to his largeness of heart, his exceptional qualities and his personal and devoted labours that the International Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva was created, organized and developed.

The International Committee sees in this recompense for its work and the appreciation of its efforts, a powerful encouragement for it to persevere in the task to which it has been assigned by international agreements, namely the constant and active concern in the improvement of the position of the wounded, sick and prisoners, in a spirit of neutrality and absolute impartiality, in accordance with its motto *Inter Arma Caritas*.

In 1901, the first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Henry Dunant who shared it with Frédéric Passy. The ICRC received it in 1917, as we have recalled, and again in 1945. Finally, in 1963 it was honoured by this high distinction in conjunction with the League of Red Cross Societies.

¹ Published by the ICRC, Geneva, January 1918.