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### SUMMARY

At the beginning of this report it is stated that there were, in the minds of people interested in philanthropic work, eight questions which they desired to have answered. These questions were listed as follows:

1. Are more dollars contributed for philanthropic purposes now than formerly, or is it merely true that a few large organizations have taken the place of many small organizations?
2. When the sums contributed are reduced to terms of constant purchasing power, do they represent real value larger than before the War?
3. Have per capita contributions, if measured in dollars of constant purchasing power, increased during the last quarter century?
4. Are people today contributing to philanthropic organizations a larger proportion of their total wealth than they did in pre-War times?
5. Are earnings and interest on investments becoming a more or a less important factor in the revenues of philanthropic organizations?
6. Do the large or small contributors furnish the bulk of the funds?
7. What changes have occurred in the objects of philanthropy as indicated by the distribution of the expenditures made by philanthropic organizations?
8. Are there cycles in philanthropy or does it follow a smooth trend?

We are now in a position to give fairly definite answers to these questions for the city of New Haven. One is tempted to say that, inasmuch as New Haven appears to be a rather typical American city, the answers for New Haven probably apply to many other cities in the United States. The fact is, however, that, while this may be true, we have not the evidence to substantiate this view, and hence it must at present be regarded merely as an interesting hypothesis.

The answers to the questions as applied to the city of New Haven are as follows:

1. The number of dollars contributed to philanthropic organizations in New Haven has grown very greatly from 1900 to 1925, the amount at the close of the period being about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times<sup>1</sup> as great as in the former. In this city, at any rate, it is not true that all that has occurred has been a substitution of a few large organizations for many small organizations.
2. When contributions are reduced to terms of constant purchasing power, a decided growth in the total still appears.
3. When the contributions so deflated are converted to a per capita basis, we find that the amount contributed per person in New Haven has averaged about the same during the last five years as in the first five years of the twentieth century.
4. People today are contributing to philanthropic organizations about the same proportion of their total wealth that they did in pre-War times. Except for cyclical variations, the changes in the fraction of wealth given have not been marked since 1900, though it is true that the war year of 1918 did extract from the pockets of the people a fraction of their wealth somewhat abnormally large.
5. Earnings and investments constitute a growing percentage of the total receipts of all philanthropic organizations in New Haven. In 1900 approximately one-fifth of the total receipts came from these sources, while in 1925 the fraction had risen to two-fifths. Most of the growth in the percentage occurred, however, during the period 1900 to 1916.
6. We were unable to secure complete data showing the proportion of total contributions coming in amounts of various sizes, but if the sums given to the Community Chest may be taken as a criterion, it appears that large gifts are much more important than small gifts in swelling the aggregate, two-thirds of the money contributed being received from persons giving \$100 or more. Approximately the same ratio holds for ten other sample organizations from which it was possible to secure a record of contributions classified according to size.
7. A study of the percentages of the total direct expenditures made by all organizations for philanthropic purposes shows that the fraction of the total used for the relief of the poor,

<sup>1</sup>This increase is based upon a comparison of the average of the years 1900-1904 with the average of 1923-1925.

afflicted and delinquent has remained about constant, being approximately one-fourth in 1900 and the same in 1925. On the other hand, health work has been steadily absorbing an increasing percentage of the total expenditures, the amount used for this purpose having grown from 17 per cent in 1900 to 35 per cent in 1925. The percentage of the total used for secular education has also risen, increasing from less than 2 per cent in 1900 to nearly 6 per cent in 1925. In this connection, it must be remembered that the study did not cover institutions, such as schools, the main purpose of which was education. The work denominated as character building, undertaken, in the main, by such organizations as the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Young Men's Hebrew Association, and the Knights of Columbus, showed a marked increase between 1900 and 1916, having risen during that period from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 per cent of the total. Since the last mentioned date, it has again declined, until now this type of work absorbs only about 6 per cent of the total. The type of expenditure which shows the most marked relative loss is that for religious work. In 1900 this type of work received 47 per cent of all money disbursed for philanthropic purposes, while, by 1919, the percentage had declined to 24 per cent. Since that date, the relative position of religious and secular work has remained approximately constant, religious work receiving about one-fourth of the total direct expenditures.

8. One of the most striking features brought out by the investigation is the marked strength of the cyclical movements in individual contributions. Receipts from investments, earnings, and contributions from government to philanthropic purposes have grown rather steadily, showing but little of the cyclical effects characterizing gifts from individuals. The quarter century from 1900 to 1925 includes six distinct waves in contributions, the crests in 1902, 1909, and 1918 being the highest peaks, with minor tops in 1904, 1914, and 1923. There were six distinct troughs, those of 1903, 1907, 1912, 1916, and 1920 being about equally depressed. A trough is also apparent in 1924, but, in that year, the depression was much less marked than in former cycles. The average wave length appears to be about 4 years. The correlation with the criteria usually taken to represent the business cycle is not at all close.