
The Lookout



NEW BUILDING
Now being erected

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK
ONE STATE STREET

AN APPEAL

WE HAVE begun to build our new home—a twelve-story, fireproof structure that will be a model of its kind for all the world.

We have begun to build, although a portion of the money required has not yet been subscribed. The success of our work demands it. We believe it to be our duty to our subscribers.

To gather up the residue of a large fund like this would be an arduous task were the circumstances less favorable. Subscriptions to this fund have been accompanied almost invariably by a very genuine interest in the success of the undertaking and a pride in its future. A very pleasant and confidential relation seems to exist, and where the supporters of a society have its welfare so genuinely at heart, it is incredible that the work of gathering up the remnant should be unduly difficult.

We appeal, therefore, to the supporters of the Institute to continue their activities and generousities until the entire fund is completed. We appeal to those who have not contributed to join us in making this great work an unprecedented success.

Will you not aid us by bringing this work to the notice of your friends—personal contact is always helpful—in order that we may proceed with the building, assured that the money will be on hand to pay for it when it is finished?

Subscriptions, payable any time during 1912, should be sent to Edmund L. Baylies, Chairman Building Committee, 54 Wall Street, City.

THE LOOKOUT

Published by the Seamen's Church Institute of New York
RT. REV. DAVID H. GREER, D.D., LL.D., President FRANK T. WARBURTON, Secretary-Treasurer
OFFICE, ONE STATE STREET, NEW YORK

VOL. II.

DECEMBER, 1911

No. 8

The Building Grows

CAISSONS COMPLETED.

Over at Coenties Slip and South Street, where the Foundation Company is at work, the sixteen caissons have been sunk and the coffer-dam finished. Now begins the work of excavating the central space, and by the end of another month the foundations will be ready for the steel frame-work. One large pump and six small ones are working constantly to keep out the encroaching river, and this makes the cement labor increasingly difficult.

COMPRESSED AIR EXPERIENCE.

Just before the last caisson was closed Mr. Benjamin T. Van Nostrand, an active member of the Board of Managers, made the journey to the bottom of it and had the experience of some fifteen minutes under air pressure. He saw the last buckets full of earth go up the shaft to the air lock, and when he emerged he watched the final ceremonies which made it possible to announce that the sixteenth caisson was sunk and two-thirds of the foundation laid.

DISCOVERIES.

At one corner of the lot the workmen found an old scow which had been sunk these fifty years past, and remained as part of the foundations of the old building that stood on this site. It was quite a common practice half a century ago to fill old canal boats with stones and make them form the underlying structure of buildings along the water-front.

In another corner were several cannon balls embedded firmly in the earth, yielding to the workmen's pick with evident reluctance. Conch shells of exquisite opalescent hues were discovered, together with some Italian coins nearly a century old. A Dutch water-bottle, curiously designed and surprisingly intact, was found by one of the men who was watching out for buried treasure. When the central excavation is being done many more interesting relics may come to light.

STEEL AND A COINCIDENCE.

The contract for the steel has been given to the Eastern Steel Company, of Pottsville, Penn. The Chairman of the Building Committee was fortunate in securing this contract for \$65,000, a sum which can certainly leave but a very small margin of profit for the steel company.

An interesting feature in connection with this contract is that this same company furnished the steel plates for the *St. Louis* and *St. Paul*, of the American Line. It is singularly appropriate that the ships and the seamen's home ashore should be thus linked together.

The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers took place on Wednesday, December 6th. There was a splendid attendance and this together with the evidences of genuine interest and enthusiastic belief in the Institute work made it one of the most encouraging meetings

which has ever been held. Bishop Courtney and Bishop Lines were present, also Dr. Wrigley and Rev. Mr. Crocker. Bishop Courtney presided.

The present officers were re-elected. They are: President, Right Rev. David H. Greer, D.D., LL.D.; Corresponding Secretary, John A. McKim; Treasurer and Recording Secretary, Frank T. Warburton; Superintendent, Archibald R. Mansfield.

Three new members were elected to the Board. They are: Franklin R. Remington, J. Frederic Tams, Bayard Hoppin.

A Letter Home

Not long ago one of the young apprentice lads, who has been for nearly two years one of the "little brothers" of the Institute, deserted his ship while it was at anchor in this harbor. He had served about eighteen months of the four years' apprenticeship, but he had evidently grown weary of ship discipline, or ship fare, or of sailing the high seas. Anyhow, he left his ship and got a position in a nearby town in New Jersey. And then he wrote quite casually to his parents and announced his change of occupation and address. They were naturally much distressed, and both mother and father wrote long, earnest letters urging him to rejoin his ship. They begged him to justify their faith in him by returning and serving out his time. The clergyman of the little church the boy had attended when at home in England wrote also, using, perhaps, the persuasive arguments that had appealed to other lads in similar situations. To these letters there was no reply, but the other day the Superintendent of the Institute received a most pathetic note from the mother, asking him to help them reach the boy. She enclosed the following

startling communication, just received by her:

"_____, U. S. A.

"DEAREST MUM—I guess you will be surprised to get another letter so soon, but I felt I must write and tell you that I am engaged to a very nice girl and I know you will like her when you see her, and you will before long, for when we get married we will come to dear old England for our honeymoon. I guess you will like her alright—she is just your sort—and she did not want to say 'Yes' without your and Dad's consent, but I told her I knew you would say 'Yes,' and there you are!

"Her name is Margaret Murphy, Irish, aye? Well, it isn't; it's Yankee.

"I am working my hardest and saving all I can and she is getting about £2, or ten dollars a week, so we won't be very long saving up, Mum, and then I'll come home again for a little while, dearest Mum.

"There has been a big fire at the oil works and 120,000 barrels of gasoline are all afire and have been for three days now and there have been about ten explosions at this place and one killed.

"Now, Mum, I must say good bye, going out, so good bye and God bless you all.

"Your loving son,

"_____

"P. S.—If you send me some cigarettes for Christmas, I will send you the money for them later. Can't get decent ones here."

The boy is seventeen and it would seem, from his letter, that he has very little imagination, else he would never have written in such a way to a mother whose heart must be filled with grief at her son's attitude. The Institute has succeeded in getting in touch with him, and it is hoped that he may be persuaded at least to postpone his matrimonial intentions until after he has finished his four years' apprenticeship.

After Six Years

It was one day in October, 1905, that Elis Andersen decided that his sister in Stockholm might be glad of a little pin money. He had been on a long voyage in tropical waters and when he landed in New York he sought the Institute to find companionship and the recreation to be had ashore in a cool climate. Someone told him of the savings department and he asked the man behind the desk to transmit \$10.00 to the sister in Sweden. Then he sailed away and was heard from no more.

The letter containing the money couldn't discover Miss Andersen and it finally returned to the Institute. That was six years ago.

Last week a man came in to make a deposit and it occurred to the man behind the desk that there was something vaguely familiar about the name. He asked Andersen if he recalled sending money home and inquired whether it had ever been received.

"No, I guess not. The family went to Australia," replied the man indifferently.

"Why don't you ask about it and find out where it went?" insisted the other.

"Oh," carelessly, "it's too long ago."

Elis Andersen was given his money and he added it to his deposit with an increased respect for that system which protects the interests of sailors even while they sail the seven seas.

A "Party"

When there are pink-shaded candles on the long table and motto papers that yield caps and flags as well as platitudes, that means the apprentice boys are having a party at No. 1 State Street. The mottoes may sound a bit juvenile, but when the boys are released from long days of ship discipline they want to be absurdly young and as youthfully gay.

The last party which occurred one Saturday evening two or three weeks ago was called an "officers' party," but as most of the officers had been coming to the Institute since they were apprentices, and as there were really more boys than officers anyhow, there was much wholesome and innocuous "sky-larking." That's what the British lads themselves call it. They consumed huge quantities of sandwiches, cake and hot chocolate with whipped cream; this last, by the way, was the most alluring part of the feast. It is easy to see that whipped cream must be difficult of achievement on board a freighter. Anyhow, its appearance at any of the Institute parties is a signal for rejoicing, frank and unashamed. A desire for whipped cream seems such an innocent thing; it is rather too bad that there is not always money enough to provide the fulfillment.

Beside the feast there was every sort of game, and music and dancing. The boys learn to dance together on their long voyages and some of them play the piano astonishingly well.

"I say," said one of them when it was time to go back to the ship, "I *have* had a most frightfully jolly evening. I *wish* our silly boat didn't sail this week."

"Of course!" said one of his companions. "Who ever wants to leave New York and the Institute?"

Gift of a Piano

A Decker grand piano and music cabinet has been presented to the State street station. The piano is one of excellent tone, and there is a grateful change from the worn felts and warped strings of the old ones. It was presented by Dr. Frederick W. Huber, who has long been one of the Institute's staunch friends. Dr. Huber's brother has charge of the plumbing in the three stations.

THE LOOKOUT

Published every month by the Seamen's
Church Institute of New York at
One State Street

Subscription Price - - One Dollar a Year

NOTE—Address all communications to
ARCHIBALD R. MANSFIELD, Superintendent

A Subscribers' Club

On the last page of this issue will be found the names of the members of the Building Committee and the Advisory Committee. These are the men whose activities have made the new building possible. It is through their agency that the foundation is now nearly completed and over half the necessary money raised. They have been dominated by that splendid enthusiasm which is the power behind big enterprises and they have achieved much.

The land has been paid for. The building, completely furnished, together with the architects' fees will cost \$675,000. Of this amount over \$300,000 has been raised, leaving a balance of about \$350,000 to be subscribed.

Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars sounds great or trivial in proportion to one's circumstances, but there can be no such contrasting adjectives applied to the work that the money will perform. It is without question one of the most tremendous possibilities for social and civic betterment that is being advanced in New York. And this Institute has confidence in its power to raise the three hundred and fifty thousand within the coming year, provided only it has the assistance of those who have proved themselves its friends.

It has this to propose to the subscribers to the Building Fund. It would like to form a Subscribers' Club, the purpose of which would be to permit those who genuinely believe in this opportunity

for being Big Brothers to the seamen to co-operate with the Building Committee in a concerted effort to raise the necessary balance.

Briefly, the Club would include all persons who have subscribed or contributed to the building. All new literature issued by the Building Department would be mailed to the members. They would be asked to suggest methods of appeal and the names of persons likely to be interested in this philanthropy. These persons may be divided into six classes:

Those whose relatives or intimate friends have been in the Navy or otherwise actively connected with the sea.

Those whose civic pride and knowledge of municipal affairs force them to realize the importance of this method of keeping the water-front decent.

Those who care so much about all humanity, about the men who haven't always had fair chances, that they want to help.

Those who prefer to contribute to a charity which is endorsed by church and state; which has for its background of supporters men who stand for high ideals, fearless integrity and singleness of purpose.

Those who view the matter from the standpoint of the student of economics, recognizing that the seamen's money which formerly went into "gin-mills" will go into channels that make for the upbuilding of society rather than its destruction.

Those who understand that by providing a comfortable home for seamen an important step is being taken toward the building up of the American Merchant Marine; it is setting a standard for seaports so that the seamen's calling can be attractive to thrifty, ambitious men.

Large Rooms Not Reserved

Eight rooms beside the dormitory have not been reserved as yet. It is a splendid opportunity for those wishing to contribute large sums to the new building to have their gifts permanently memorialized. Others may wish to memorialize friends or relatives by taking these rooms in their names. The remaining rooms are as follows:

SHIPPING BUREAU—\$2,000

(About 35 feet square)

Employment was secured for 3,126 seamen, free of charge to them, through this department last year.

DINING ROOM—\$3,000

(About 30 x 46 feet in size)

Where good meals will be served at reasonable prices to the seamen lodging in the Institute.

OFFICERS' DINING ROOM—\$1,000

(18 feet long; 32 feet wide)

To maintain discipline at sea separate accommodations must be provided for the officers and seamen in the Institute.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT—\$1,500

The seamen deposit their savings with us to the extent of \$135,000 annually.

GAME ROOM—\$5,000

(About 54 x 60 feet)

Away from home, the men of the sea are dependent upon such recreation as they can find; if not here, in some less elevating place.

OFFICERS' GAME ROOM—\$2,000

(About 106 x 21 feet)

The seaman has scant opportunity for amusement except when on land.

AUDITORIUM—\$5,000

(About 50 x 70 feet)

Where entertainments will be held. When not needed for other purposes, it will be used as a gymnasium.

MAIN STAIRCASE—\$3,500

(Running from basement to 4th floor)

It introduces the seaman to the Institute and to the hospitality of the port.

DORMITORY—\$2,000

(On fifth floor)

Where men may secure a night's lodging, under sanitary conditions, for ten or fifteen cents.

Officers' Rooms

On the twelfth floor of the building will be about twenty large rooms, each one with an outside window, and these will be reserved for the officers who come to the Institute. The furniture design will not have quite the same Spartan simplicity as that in the seamen's rooms, and there will probably be the addition of a chiffonier or a chest of drawers. The cost of building and furnishing one of these rooms is estimated at \$250. Any person wishing to contribute this amount may take an officer's room as a memorial to a friend or relative. A brass plate bearing the name of the donor, or an inscription containing the name of the person memorialized, will be placed over the door, if desired.

\$100 Will Furnish a Bedroom

Over two hundred of the bed rooms intended for the sailors have not yet been taken. It has been estimated that \$100 will build and furnish one of these rooms. And past experience has proved that during a year one hundred men may each occupy one of these rooms. For *one hundred dollars* one hundred men may come under the Institute's influence and receive in some measure, surely, that cheerful sense of welcome and comfort which the word "home" implies.

If you wish to give \$100 to memorialize someone whose interests were with the men of the sea, the opportunity is given you to do this and to be of genuine help to a human being who needs your assistance. Each room may be inscribed with the name of the donor or of the persons he wishes to memorialize.

Seamen and Social Work

SEAMEN'S BENEFIT SOCIETY.

About the third day out there comes the time on every voyage when you grow a little tired of watching the insistent horizon from your steamer chair, when your own books and the ship's library fail to absorb you, and that is usually the time you begin to explore the ship and find a passing diversion in the steerage or the engine room. Perhaps when you are carefully threading your way among the oily machinery or past the scorching furnaces, one of the stokers asks you to throw on a shovelful of coal so that you may feel that you are helping urge the steamer on her way. The stoker, in his abbreviated clothing, with his arms and face as red as the insatiable fire he feeds, hardly seems human to you at first. But when you have sought the fresh air of the upper deck again you find yourself wondering about him and about his fellows who spend their days "below."

It was due to some such experience as this that the Seamen's Benefit Society of this Institute was organized about twelve years ago. Miss Augusta de Peyster, who has always been the Secretary of the Society, had just returned from Europe, and during the voyage she had been particularly impressed with the lonely, miserable lives of the stokers, firemen, engineers and seamen ranking below the stewards. She found herself thinking about them so much that she decided there must be something in the way of social work which she and her friends with leisure could do to make the land, at least, a cheerful place for the seaman. Soon after her arrival she went to see Bishop David H. Greer, who was at that time her rector, and he directed her to Superintendent Mansfield, then at the Pike street station. She was soon full of enthusiasm and most

eager to be of real assistance. Mr. Mansfield told her what had been done by the individual efforts of women, who, like herself, realized the need for social influences among the seamen who come to this port. He told her, however, that no unity had existed in that line of endeavor and consequently the results had not been very encouraging.

A month later Mr. Mansfield was notified that the Seamen's Benefit Society had been organized and that its members were women genuinely concerned in the work of real philanthropy. They agreed to provide for the social part of the Institute work. It was this society which became responsible for providing the Sunday night teas to the apprentice boys; it made the Thursday evening entertainments possible; it has supplied music for special occasions, raised money for festival and holiday times; and its members made themselves largely sponsors for the small yacht *Sentinel*.

The Society has been of inestimable value to this work. It has given some large entertainment every two years and raised a large sum of money for the support of its various activities. Last year, through the special matinee of "Königskinder" \$5,500 was taken in, and of this \$2,000 went into the new building fund to pay for the Apprentice Room; \$2,000 went toward the maintenance of the *Sentinel*; and the balance into the general funds of the Society.

The present officers are: Miss Catherine S. Leverich, President; Miss Augusta M. de Peyster, Secretary; Mrs. George A. Lung, Treasurer.

Exchanges

The steamer *Momus*, Capt. Boyd, of the Southern Pacific Line, came into port on the 6th inst. with her flags half-

masted, her first officer, boatswain and a sailor having been swept from her forward deck by a heavy sea which boarded her on the afternoon of the 2d inst., when the steamer was off Fowey Rocks, Fla. An attempt at rescue was made, a boat's crew going off amidst tremendous seas and wind and at the peril of their lives. No sight of the ill-fated men could be made out, and the boat was recalled to save the lives of the gallant crew.—*Nautical Gazette.*

The Navy Department is preparing to equip naval vessels with wireless apparatus equal to that used by the German navy, which recently proved itself so far superior in sending wireless messages from Hankow after the recent battle there. The German equipment is known technically as 500 cycles, and is declared to be approximately eight times stronger than that used on vessels of our fleet.—*Marine Journal.*

Blue Prints and Dormitories

Blue prints as inspirations do not seem quite the ideal conception of what an inspiring agent should be. But they serve. The persons responsible for the final decisions on the new building plans study the sheaves of white-starred blue prints and gradually the new Institute, completed, perfect in every detail, is visioned. And then appears the chance to make a slight alteration for the better, the opportunity to rearrange the space on the fourth floor, or to put in a window in the seventh. It was during an hour of patient concentration that space was discovered for dormitories on the fifth floor.

These will be open dormitories for which the charge will be ten or fifteen cents for a bed. At present, when men apply to the Institute for a night's lodg-

ing, it is very often necessary to send them to the Municipal Lodging House; but when the new building is in operation it will be possible to take care of nearly a hundred of these human derelicts. The stairways have been arranged in the rear so that the men that go to the dormitories can use them without entering the part of the fifth floor devoted to the regular guests. The men using the dormitories will not be entitled to the privileges of the Institute, the recreation rooms, post office and shipping department. This is not considered feasible because of the effect their presence would have upon the better class of patrons. But it is most fortunate that the Institute will be able to offer such forlorn humans a clean bed and bath.

Shipping Department

Month Ending November 30, 1911

1 State Street

NAME OF VESSEL	MEN SHIPPED	DESTINATION
S. S. Clement	45	Brazil
S. S. Stephen	7	Brazil
S. S. Dunstan	—	Brazil
S. S. Byron	30	Brazil
S. S. Cervantes	22	River Plate
S. S. Camoens	1	Manchester
S. S. Vasari	43	River Plate
S. S. Thespis	—	Manchester
S. S. Howick Hall	13	Chile
Ship Edward Sewall	24	San Francisco, Cal.
U. S. S. Arethusa	3	Coast
S. S. Dochra	18	River Plate
Barge Caddo	2	Coast
S. S. Texas	2	Coast
Barge Magnolia	3	Coast
S. S. Florida	1	Coast
Barge Caddo	2	Coast
S. S. Ocean Prince	17	River Plate
S. S. African Prince	18	River Plate
S. S. Georgian Prince	6	Mexico
S. S. Indian Prince	15	Brazil
	272	
Temporary work	109	On shipboard, etc.
From 341 West St.	2	Sent to various positions
Total	383	

A Clock

A handsome gilt clock for the new building has been presented by one of the Institute's loyal friends.

North River Station Notes

The month of November was made distinctive by four events which brought large numbers of seamen to this station.

THREE CREWS ENTERTAIN.

On the evening of the 1st the members of three ships' crews, the *Adriatic*, *Caledonia* and *St. Louis* gave a most successful entertainment in the auditorium, which was, of course, greatly overcrowded. After the music and recitations refreshments were served to all who had helped to make the evening merry.

A SAD INCIDENT.

The account of the tragedy which occurred on board the *S. S. Momus* appears in the Exchange column. Probably it will be read with that transient interest which one is forced to bestow upon stories which do not immediately concern one. But there are those at the North River Station who knew the three men who were washed overboard, and to them there was depressing solemnity in the spectacle of the ship steaming slowly up to her pier with half-mast flags. On the following Sunday a memorial service was held in our chapel. The Captain of the *Momus*, the chief officers and members of the ship's crew attended, together with seamen from other ships on which the memorial notice had been posted. Special music was provided and an address was made by the Chaplain.

AN ORGAN RECITAL.

With that rapid transition from the grave to the gay which characterizes this work, the next important event was the first appearance of the Mauretania Concert Company at the North River Station and an organ recital. Mrs. Carrella, a Mauretania stewardess, sang several familiar selections; her voice has a most sympathetic quality and her songs gave

much real pleasure. Mr. Pennington, of the Engine Department, proved himself a most effective magician and ventriloquist, while violin and piano solos were contributed by Messrs. Woodward, Turtle, Allen and G. Turtle. At the conclusion of this program the audience was asked to go downstairs to the Chapel to hear Mr. Hibbard, bandmaster of the *S. S. Celtic*, in a short recital. Mr. Bedford, of the *Celtic* orchestra, accompanied on the violin. Two hundred and one men listened with evident appreciation to the "Hallelujah Chorus," "Poet and Peasant," and other selections, and then rose and sang one verse of "God Save the King" and a verse of "America."

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Thanksgiving Day brought a house full. There was a service at 10.30 a. m. From 2 to 6 p. m. a trio of stringed instruments made music for the three hundred and fifty seamen who spent the afternoon with us. The billiard tables were converted into dining tables, and sandwiches, chicken, mince and pumpkin pie, coffee, apples and tobacco were served. Our guests were principally firemen, stokers and sailors from the *S. S. Caledonia*, *Adriatic*, *Momus*, *Minneapolis*.

CHRISTMAS CONTRIBUTIONS.

On Christmas we want to keep open house. We want to have the festival carol service, decorations for the church, and a dinner. These things will need money, of course, and we ask for contributions. Checks may be sent to Mr. Warburton, 68 William street; or to the Chaplain, Rev. C. B. Carpenter, 341 West street. It should be possible for us to give several hundred seaman a merry Christmas.

REPORT FOR OCTOBER

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR OCTOBER

The following synopsis of the work done in the various departments during the month of October gives a fair idea of the workings of the Institute:

OCTOBER, 1911

Savings Department

October 1, cash on hand.....	\$15,020.62
Deposits.....	13,857.60
	\$28,878.22
Payments, (\$4,412.40 transmitted) ..	13,610.25
November 1, balance.....	\$15,267.97

Shipping Department

Number of vessels shipped entire by Seamen's Church Institute.....	13
Number of men provided with employment in port.....	52
Number of men shipped.....	138
	190
Total (number of men).....	190

Reading Room

Total attendance.....	15,001
Letters written and received.....	3,148
Packages reading given.....	774

Relief Department

Assisted.....	136
Sent to Legal Aid Society.....	32
Hospital visits.....	17
Visits to ships in port.....	121

Religious and Social Departments

Number of services.....	15
Attendance total.....	501
Communion services.....	2

Institute Boat "Sentinel"

Trips made.....	40
Visits to vessels.....	72
Men transported.....	129
Pieces baggage transported.....	181

BUILDING COMMITTEE

EDMUND L. BAYLIES, *Chairman*

HERBERT BARBER

CHARLES W. BOWRING

HENRY L. HOBART

BENJAMIN R. C. LOW

A. T. MAHAN

HENRY LEWIS MORRIS

JOHN SEELY WARD

I. K. LANE, *Secretary*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ROBERT S. BREWSTER

CLEVELAND H. DODGE

FRANCIS LYNDE STETSON

WM. DOUGLAS SLOANE