

# The LOOKOUT

SEAMEN'S  
CHURCH  
INSTITUTE  
of NEW YORK

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Number III

March  
1926

## The LOOKOUT

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# The Lookout

VOL. XVII

MARCH, 1926

No. 3

## THE BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN

New York Business Leader Chosen as  
Chairman

The Board of Managers announce an intensive campaign to raise \$2,000,000 in the period of April thirtieth to May fifteenth to complete the fund for the new Annex.

Mr. John E. Berwind of the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company has accepted the Chairmanship of the Campaign Committee. Under Mr. Berwind's leadership a large volunteer organization of representative men and women will be formed. Wide publicity will carry the interests of the campaign to the attention of the general public. The organization will be built and the publicity designed to function intensively during the period of actual canvass for funds, *April thirtieth to May fifteenth.*

While not a member of the Board of Managers, Mr. Berwind has for many years been deeply interested in the work of the Seamen's Church Institute. He has always been among the ardent supporters of the Institute. He brings to the Chairmanship of this campaign not only his own deep interest in the work but also his large business and social influence among the representative men and women of New York.

Headquarters of the campaign have been established at 11 Broadway, a location easily accessible to downtown business leaders, many of whom will be drafted into service under Mr. Ber-

wind's leadership to prosecute a vigorous, dignified and thorough campaign. Further announcements will be made from time to time through the LOOKOUT, the public press, and the Campaign Committee's own literature.

In speaking of the campaign and the needs of seamen in New York, Mr. Berwind made the following statement to the press:

"Events at sea during the past few weeks have emphasized the perils and hardships endured by seamen who experience shipwreck or who risk their lives to rescue their brethren. The New York public has given generous expression of its appreciation of the part played by these men who must be prepared to meet any emergency the elements may bring them to face. These men play a highly important part in the commerce of the world and their lives and interests are of much greater than casual significance to the entire public.

"Not all the perils and hardships of the seamen's life and work are limited to their service at sea. These men must spend a part of their time in the shipping ports of the world. Little of their life and problems ashore is known, yet it is to this side of the seamen's life that the general public can contribute most in helpfulness, comfort and safety.

"The facilities provided for the seaman in port are woefully inadequate to his needs, comfort and safety. Thousands come daily into the Port of New York and there are not only the problems of finding clean beds in wholesome surroundings, good food within their means, wholesome recreation, but also helpful counsel in many perplexing problems—legal, medical, surgical, or financial, transmitting funds to his family, facilities

for his savings. These and a thousand other problems confront the man of the sea when he gets into port.

"Here in New York at 25 South Street is the Seamen's Church Institute which, under most excellent direction, is providing all of the above and many other facilities to merchant seamen while in the Port of New York up to the limit of its capacity. Though the largest institution for seamen in the world, so crowded is the present building that weekly hundreds seeking beds have to be refused accommodations.

"To meet this urgent need the institution is now building a thirteen-story Annex which with the present building will provide sleeping accommodations for 1,500 men per night and many other conveniences for thousands more per day.

"It is my firm conviction that by helping provide the \$2,000,000 needed to complete this Annex, the New York public can establish a testimonial of appreciation for merchant seamen that will be of incalculable service, and mean more to these men than any other thing that could be devised for their comfort and help."

### *Relativity*

A story that is typical of the seaman's humor and his detachment from himself was told recently by a mariner who overheard the following remarks at sea during the recent Atlantic storms.

It was during a tremendous "blow," waves running mountains high, a cold cutting wind. Between whirls of wind one sailor shouted to another, "I sure feel sorry for 'em ashore. What with this wind, it must be the devil's own night on South Street."

*Music Versus Morpheus*

That music has charms needs no argument, but the question of time and place is debatable.

That is what the watchman thought a few nights ago, and his opinion was shared by a few seamen on the upper floors of the Institute. He was not a little mystified to hear a lady's voice singing in the corridor an impassioned ballad about being somebody's baby. He listened, and when that subsided a quartette began to lament that "She was only a Sailor's Daughter."

The hour was late. There were many sailors along the corridor who were more interested in sleep than babies and daughters. And they told the night watchman so in the not uncertain terms for which seafarers are known. Something had to be done.

He came to the musical room. It was locked, barred, and bolted, but from it still came the midnight melodies. A knock brought no reply; he pounded, but still the music went on; he climbed up to look over the transom; he shouted, and still nothing stirred.

Finally he got a pass key, let himself in, shook the sleeping man, and asked him what he meant by broadcasting at that hour of the morning.

"I do sleep firm," came the sleepy rejoinder, and he "tuned in" to sleep while the night watchman "tuned off" the radio that he had left on when he began his "firm" sleeping. New York stations had long ceased to function, but he left the machine open so that Miami had managed to reach him—and the rest of Sailordom as well.

But somehow or other, the Miami station is not the most popular with a certain floor of the Institute.

*Hero Fund Distributed*

During the reception for the crew of the "Roosevelt" at Carnegie Hall on February 20th when the Secretary of the Navy presented the Naval Cross to the Captain and the First Officer, distribution was made of the "New York Sun's Hero Fund" for which the Institute had been custodian. The Committee of the Board of Managers was composed of Mr. Edmund L. Baylies, Mr. Frank T. Warburton, Mr. Walter Wood Parsons, Mr. Herbert L. Satterlee, and Dr. Archibald R. Mansfield.

Following the "Sun's" announcements that the money sent to it would be distributed among twenty-four officers and men of the S. S. "President Roosevelt," the Committee made the allotment in the following proportions: To Captain Fried and to First Officer Miller, 2-24 each; to the seventeen men certified by Mr. T. H. Rossbottom, General Manager of the United States Lines, as having been members of the crews of the lifeboats in one or more of the three attempts to save the crew of the S. S. "Antinoe," 1-24 each; to the dependents of each of the two men who were drowned, 1-24 each; and to the crew of the Wireless House (to be divided among them equally), 1-24 each.

The "Sun's" Fund had reached a total of \$10,447.73 when it was distributed, which gave \$870.64 to the Captain and the Chief Officer, and \$435.32 to each of the others. The actual presentation was made by Rear Admiral Fiske. Captain Fried immediately turned over the money given him to the general fund and the memorial to the men who lost their lives.

As each man's name was called, he came forward and received his check amidst sustained ap-

plause. Amid a profound silence Rear Admiral Fiske presented to Captain Fried checks made out to the fathers of Uno Witanen and Fritz Steger—one in Finland, the other in Germany—to be forwarded by him to their destination.

In reply to the queries as to what they would do with their money most of the men explained they would use it for their families. For the majority it meant the accomplishment of some desire they had heretofore thought could never be gratified.

It was particularly interesting to note that of the seventeen men on the official list of volunteers furnished the Institute by Mr. Rossbottom of the United States Lines, five of them gave "25 South Street" as their permanent address.

### *Vocabularies*

His knowledge of English was very sketchy. By dint of his gestures he explained to the Relief Lady how he had injured his hand. Working on shipboard he had dealt the thumb a smashing blow, and while ashore between sailings he tried to take care of it himself. It was not a success. When he arrived it was late, the clinic was closed, but the Relief Lady's knowledge of first aid stood her in good stead.

She dressed it, but next day when he came back, he could not get the bandage off. He pulled, the pain increased, and to the Relief Lady's astonishment a fluid flow of English swear words came to his relief. Startled and not a little amused at his well stocked vocabulary of oaths, she asked him to be more guarded—swearing did no good. He subsided but came back for other dressings, each time inarticulate until the bandage was removed.

She finally ceased expostulating, and when he brought her a thank offering a few days later in token of her help, she wondered whether it was her first aid or his unauthorized vocabulary that effected the cure.

### *Among the Associations*

The first meeting of the Central Council under the leadership of Mrs. H. Schuyler Cammann, the newly elected First Vice-Chairman, was held at the Institute, February twenty-third. Dr. Mansfield made a special request during the meeting for an endowment fund for social service and relief work.

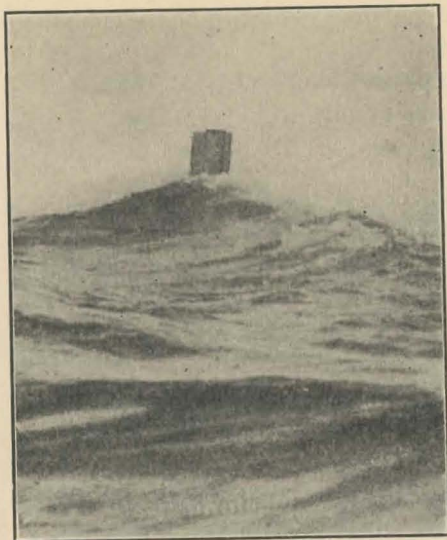
The Staten Island Association held a benefit bridge on Friday, the twenty-sixth, aboard the training ship "Briarcliff." Mrs. John Collingwood directed the affair, assisted by a number of association members.

The Grace Church Association at a meeting held February twenty-fourth voted to raise funds for the seamen's summer entertainment by underwriting a performance of "Parisiana" at the Century Theatre, the date to be announced later.

The Brooklyn Association at their last meeting appointed a Committee to make arrangements for a benefit bridge party, while delegations from both the Elizabeth and St. Luke's Association visited the Institute during February.

An Association has been started at Norwalk, Connecticut, under the direction of Miss Mary Evenden. Already some twenty-five members have been enrolled.

Lenten Sewing Classes are also being held by the South Shore, Elizabeth, and Brooklyn Associations.



*When  
Neptune  
Frowns*

*A recent  
photograph  
on the  
Atlantic*

*Survivors*

Fine upstanding men they were, and the sound of Dutch around the luncheon table brought up pictures of clattering wooden shoes on cobble stones, canals, genial Dutch tidiness. The crew of the rescued "Alkaid" was in; another great sea story was chronicled.

The S. S. "Westphalia" heard her S O S and picked her up several hundred miles off the coast of Newfoundland after the "Alkaid" had drifted a hundred miles in a gale running more than eighty miles. Captain Roos, the skipper of the Dutch boat, had almost given up hope. Hatches were gone; the decks were bursting apart under the giant blows of the sea; the hold was filled with water; the rudder jammed; their lifeboats

had been carried away, smashed like egg shells in the howling maelstorm of wind and water.

The Captain stood watch and sent his crew below for sleep, for though the "Westphalia" had stood by for several hours, no life boat could live in such frightful seas. It was this sleep that gave their drained vitality the last spark enabling them to leap into the life craft launched by the "Westphalia." Captain Roos, battered, weary, could not make it; he fell into the sea, but was hauled in.

Sailor men are brief and terse—that was the substance of their story; but even seamen held their breath at the account of Captain Graalf's bravery and the daring of the eleven men from the "Westphalia" who saved this crew of twenty-seven. Manoeuvring within twenty yards of the helpless hulk of the "Alkaid" they launched the life boat. Any variant treachery of the wind would have smashed the "Alkaid" and sent her crew to death. In this narrow margin between life and death went the rescue boat, seized her precious cargo, and returned. The men were taken off; the life boat cut away, the seas too heavy to lift her. And somewhere on the tumult of the mad Atlantic went the lonely little craft consecrated by bravery to the eternal brotherhood of man.

So came the story to the Institute where the survivors were put up before returning to their native land where anxious and happy hearts are waiting, and where the country resounds with praises of "Graalfs and the 'Westphalia'."



*The  
Superintendent*

*Dr.  
Archibald  
Romaine  
Mansfield*

### *Thirty Years*

When the world moves as it does today much can be written in a history of three decades. And the story of the administration of our Superintendent, the Reverend Doctor Archibald Romaine Mansfield, bears out that fact.

Thirty years ago in January, 1896, just having left the General Theological Seminary he accepted the Chaplaincy of the East River Station of what was then known as "The Protestant Episcopal Church Missionary Society for Seamen in the City and Port of New York." The Society was then in its fifty-second year of work among seamen but had no permanent home.

His glowing enthusiasm, force, his intelligent vision for the future were largely responsible for the great structure which now stands a bulwark in the lives of thousands of modern seafarers.

Through the facts and figures embodied in the

annual reports of the past three decades we read an almost romantic story of the building of this great enterprise and the history of the development of the departmental idea of service which has resulted in the creation and accomplishment of the largest Institute community for seamen in the world.

As the sixth Chaplain of this Station he conducted his first religious service at the Mission House, 34 Pike Street, on Friday, January third (his birthday), and his first services in the Floating Church of Our Saviour, foot of Pike Street, on Sunday, January fifth. Eight years later all the stations of the Society, with the exception of the North River Station, were consolidated under the direction of Dr. Mansfield who was given the title of Superintending Chaplain. In 1909 the position of Superintendent was created and he was the first to be appointed to this position and to have under his supervision the entire work of the Society.

In 1906 the charter of the Society was amended to its present name, "The Seamen's Church Institute of New York," and it was then that Dr. Mansfield's idea of a permanent home for the Society began to take form and the President, the Board, and its supporters began to see the need for an institution that would centralize the activities of the Society. The records of those days are interesting as they reveal the growth in public interest in the project as plans began to take shape.

In 1911 the present building was begun. Before it was finished, grave doubts were expressed as to its ultimate successfulness, but Dr. Mansfield's maxim of "doing things that had not been done" still carried on. And since its completion,

its great success and the demands for its services have brought about the necessity for the Annex now being erected that will enable the Institute to operate to its fullest capacity and to share its benefits with many thousands more.

Few are granted the joy of seeing their visions so wonderfully fulfilled and whatever has been the continuous labor and sacrifice of a long ministry, his sufficient reward is the knowledge of the good that has been done in the name of God and of humanity for the deserving and indispensable world seaman.

In 1915 after the present building was completed, the title of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on Dr. Mansfield by his Alma Mater in honor of his work. And at the termination of his thirty years services comes the announcement of another great honor—his election to the National Institute of Social Sciences in recognition of his activities in a new and far-reaching realm of Social Service.

Today Dr. Mansfield carries on with the same enthusiasm, the same ardor and dauntlessness that have characterized his earlier years. Time and experience may temper the judgments of youth, but the years only ripen into maturity the kindness and the dynamic force of a man of his calibre. Regardless of the tremendous proportions the work of the Institute has assumed, the great human quality of its director permeates its bone and fibre. It is doubtless whether anyone in America understands the seaman and his needs as well as Dr. Mansfield, and as the towering walls of the new structure go up we cannot help but feel that we are witnessing the work of a great builder of and for humanity.

*Lenten Sewing Classes*

Miss Augusta M. de Peyster, Director of the Seamen's Benefit Society of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York, has organized a series of Lenten Sewing Classes which were held at the following addresses:

*Tuesday, February Twenty-third*

Mrs. Edward W. Sparrow.....41 East 68th Street

*Monday, March Eighth*

Mrs. Ernest Flagg.....109 East 40th Street

*Monday March Fifteenth*

Mrs. J. M. Bailey.....1015 Park Avenue

*Monday, March Twenty-second*

Miss Emily Buch.....960 Park Avenue

*Contributions to the Building Fund*

The Building Committee has announced the following contributions received since the publication of the last LOOKOUT:

Legacy of Mrs. Lilla W. Warren.....	\$5,000.00
Stephen C. Clark.....	1,000.00
Charles Hayden.....	1,000.00
Anonymous.....	500.00
Mrs. Frederic F. Durand.....	300.00
Mrs. (Thomas K. Gale.....	200.00
Anonymous.....	100.00
Anonymous.....	100.00
The French Line.....	100.00
Miss Florence S. Sullivan.....	100.00
Willard Parker Butler.....	100.00
William Williams.....	250.00
The Foundation Company.....	1,000.00
Mabel V. R. Johnson.....	100.00
Mary D. Chafee.....	1,000.00
Elizabeth H. Wisner.....	500.00
Church of St. John the Evangelist.....	100.00
Employees of the New England S. S. Co.....	575.73
Ernest E. Wheeler.....	100.00
Mrs. Richard Van Voorhis.....	100.00



*Hearts and Hurricanes*

He had about him a boyish ingeniousness and a simplicity that marked him as a seagoer before he unrolled his story. Bronzed and weather beaten, he was unduly lean and worn, and his blue eyes expressed alternate humor and pathos as he talked. But we were not surprised at his appearance when we heard his adventure. He was the engineer and boatswain, and took out of his pocket the report to be turned into the company.

The laconic phrases of the log gave the main points of the story in the terse language of the sea—"4:30 P. M. fires put out in engine room by heavy seas coming over forward; 5:30 P. M. vessel took over three heavy seas, stove in forward house, broke forward hatch, began to fill and sank in about six minutes; 6 P. M. waterlogged, ordered lifeboat got ready, had to lower it or else would lose it; between 9 and 10 P. M. vessel turned bottom up, two sailors, engineer and myself remained on wreck all night."

A four-masted schooner, lumber laden, originally from Boston—she was making the trip from Savannah to Miami when the sea wraiths took a hand. All but one lifeboat were carried away in the storm. In this was put the Captain's wife, a steward, and one sailor—the rest intending to follow. But the painter broke before they could board her; the sailor who attempted to swim back to the ship with a line from the lifeboat was lost. The remaining crew clung to the wreck, crawling up the sides as she turned over, waterlogged, hoping against hope to be rescued.

The mate was not so fortunate. He was thrown into the caldron of the waves, bobbing up and down on a huge log—a human cork amid

the combers. They had heard nothing more of him. The Captain's wife and the men in the lifeboat reached shore safely somewhere near Palm Beach.

"My teeth chattered so from the icy rains, and my jaws ached so that I couldn't eat for two days. We couldn't have lived through another night with the cold wind and rain. The rain shut us off like a curtain. No one could have seen us if it hadn't stopped. And none of us could climb the ladder to the Norwegian liner that picked us up on her way to Havana."

Feted and clothed in Havana, they were sent back to New York on a Munson liner to find their way home. "My wife and the lads will be glad to see me. I left the sea when I was married, and went back when work was bad and 'cause I thought it would do me good. I'd make some money and gain my health back. I did pick up. But I didn't count on any such experience. And I've lost everything I had—everything except these clothes and two pipes.

"I'll have a good laugh on the doctor, though," he added. "He told me before I left I had a weak heart, but I guess it must be sound after living through this."

*The Institute Hall of Fame*

For the first time in the history of the Institute the Board of Managers has a domain—a place that they can call their own. When the present building was erected, the Board Room was planned, but by the time the building was completed the demands for space were so urgent that it was necessary to take this room for other purposes.

Now with the development of the Annex and the alterations it necessitated on the fourth floor, the Board has come into its own, and the Institute boasts a room that can be used not only for the Board meetings, but special committees and group meetings. The Apprentices' Room which the Institute has long been compelled to use for meetings and other committee gatherings, will now be freed for the use of these youngsters of the sea.

Fronting Jeanette Park, the new Board Room, with its long windows, looks out onto the harbor and the constant ebb and flow of life on old South Street. The Board held its first meeting therein on February twenty-fifth. Along one wall under the great seal of the Society has been arranged a gallery of pictures of the members of the Board, from the early days to the present—men whose dreams long ago and whose interest in the Society have made possible the present great structure and the many sided work of the Institute.

Many of them would be not a little startled today to see the changes that have come to New York and her seafarers since the days when they governed the work of the Society. Mr. Edmund L. Baylies, for over forty years a member of the Board and for twelve years its President; Mr. Frank T. Warburton, thirty-eight years the Secretary and Treasurer; and others on the present Board, who have served more than twenty years, have themselves actually seen some of these wonders worked by the Institute. And it is to the younger members of the Board that the heritage of leadership will be bequeathed in making the future history of this home of the Seven Seas. They are already admitted to the Institute's new Hall of Fame.

### *Separation*

They had been together since they were five. And when they grew to boyhood, it seemed decreed that they go to sea together.

There for the first time they were separated but later joined the same ship. And it was on their first visit to New York that Fate again sent them different ways.

Separation from life long friends in a strange port is not a pleasant experience. But that is where the Apprentices' Room and the Lady-Who-Smiles came into their lives. And the letter from one of the mothers tells just what she did to tide them over.

MY DEAR MRS. BAXTER:

It is very difficult to put into words the gratitude which wells up in my heart every time I think of your kindness to my son whilst he was in New York.

When he wrote to tell me he and E were separated he also told how you had helped and cheered him with your kindness and sympathy. How I thanked God there was some good woman around who so beautifully "mothered" him, poor boy. Poor boys, it is a great disappointment and they are so young, but they have had nine happy months together which is something to remember.

Your work among the boys is very beautiful—to provide simple, home pleasures where so much temptation abounds is something which cannot be overestimated. To remind them of the principles of love and righteousness is something which angels might envy. I pray that the blessing of God may rest upon your labors.

Whenever you are visiting London, a warm welcome awaits you here. Please accept my deepest gratitude and believe me to be,

Yours very sincerely,

F.

*Found*

A group of women from Long Island who had been visiting the building, paused at the door of the reading room before leaving the Institute. Many faces, many men, many strangers—but all of a sudden one lady's attention was caught by a boy in the corner. She could scarcely believe her eyes.

"Why, it's my son, there's my boy," she said, clutching her daughter's arm. She could say no more, her feelings overcame her voice. But words were not necessary. He reached her almost before she could finish the sentence and took her in his arms.

Four years may change a boy, but they never change a mother's heart. Nor do they change a lad's response to it. She had found the lad who had left home four years previous and whom she had given up as lost.

We didn't hear the rest of the story, but we didn't need to. The look of joy on the mother's face was enough. Her boy was found. And there was a tell-tale moistness about many eyes who had seen the working of Fate, and watched them leave the Institute together.

*Valentines*

The day of Valentines has come and gone, but there are certain lads following the sea for whom the day had more than special significance—the annual fancy dress dance in the Apprentices' Room. Costumes fantastic and funny; some like real, others like comic Valentines circulated to the dance tunes.

Again the South Shore Association proved the fairy godmother of the party, the favors and

the prizes for the best costumes coming from that organization. Mrs. George Downing Sparks, Mrs. E. A. Raff, Mrs. Francis Smyth, and Miss Virginia Raff were their official spokesmen.

It was the South Shore Association, too, who were the sponsors of a most successful dance on February twenty-third for the cadets of the Cunard training ship "Makalla" in the Apprentices' Room—an event that marked a red letter day for these youthful visitors to our port.

*Thirty Years Anniversary*

"In looking over the work of the Institute and its progress in the past thirty years—what particular thing would you do today—what work would you develop or make permanent—what is your greatest desire for the Institute," we asked Dr. Mansfield in reviewing the thirty years in which he has guided the destinies of the Society. We thought, with the full details of the new building in his mind, that his first inclination would turn in that direction. But his ideas went beyond that—to the humanitarian side of the Institute's activities.

"My greatest desire," he said, "is to make continuous and permanent for all time the support of the religious and social service work. I want an endowment fund, the proceeds of which will enable these departments to develop fully and freely and to enable those engaged in this work to be independent of the ebb and flow of current receipts and expenditures. That is the thing that lies nearest my heart. I would like to see started a thirty year anniversary fund with this idea in mind. Already sums to the amount of \$2,000 have come to me to be used for this purpose, and I am hoping that other friends of the Institute

interested in this side of the work will help increase the fund on the occasion of the termination of the thirty years which I have served. That is what I should like as the culminating achievement of my work here."

*To Travelers*

The following paragraph on the Institute is quoted from "Town Topics":

Should you have the chance of going to Europe some Thursday you will experience en route a tacit obligation to all who have been of importance in assuring you of a safe crossing and in consequence may feel inclined to do little something for the Seamen's Church Institute at No. 25 South Street, which is at present in need of an Annex. The Institute is the largest for seamen in the world and annually affords some three hundred thousand lodgings. But it has, as it were, growing pains, and finds a necessity for five hundred thousand a year, which solution the contemplated Annex will offer. The Institute itself is seventy-five per cent. self supporting and for a very nominal sum provides everything a seaman wants while in port, including lodging, restaurant, chapel, clinic, etc. It is now in its eighty-first year and it is estimated that three thousand men use the building each day. In behalf of the new addition it is only necessary to refer you, informatively and financially, to Frank T. Warburton, of No. 25 South Street, advising you that the smallest remembrance will be appreciated.

Seamen's Church Institute of New York

Incorporated 1844

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