
THE LOOKOUT



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

AN APPEAL

WE intend to build a new Institute that will be a model to its kind throughout the world. The land is purchased—the best available site in the city. The plans are drawn. We are ready. And still we delay.

It should be begun at once. Otherwise it will not be ready for use next May when our present lease expires. Until it is done we cannot expand our work and help more than a very limited number of the seamen of the port. But we cannot begin until we have more subscriptions. Nothing else delays us and hampers this work. We have raised \$405,000. We need \$285,000 more to completely pay for the land and building.

The Institute relies upon us to secure these subscriptions and start the building. We are doing the best we can, but it is a big undertaking. We need your help as well as your subscription. If all the friends of the Institute would rally to our assistance and carry this appeal to their friends the remainder would soon be raised and we could have our new building, free and clear, by May 1, 1911.

That is what we are asking you to do. Now is the time that your help is needed. Your subscription may be made payable any time before the building is completed, but we must know that you stand back of us and that the money will be forthcoming.

In making this appeal we confidently believe that those who help to make the new Institute possible will find it a continual source of honor and pride, and that, in the future, they will be grateful to us for persuading them to have a part in the building of it. Can you not persuade yourself and others to help us now and generously. The building was described in the May issue of **THE LOOKOUT**.

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. I.

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No. 8

Report to the Diocese

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Institute, Mr. Edmund L. Baylies, presented the annual report of the Board of Managers to the Diocesan Convention, held in this city during the past month. The report is too long to be presented in full, consequently a digest of it is here published.

In presenting the sixty-sixth annual report of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York, we wish to remind you that our charge occupies a place in the work among the sailors of this port which is unrivaled. We have organized a work for seamen that in breadth of its activities and in its aggressiveness occupies a field of its own.

It is so recognized by the seamen who enjoy its hospitality. Its name and reputation are almost as well known in the ports of Shanghai and Calcutta as along the waterfront of New York. It has the confidence of parents whose sons follow the sea, and their hearts are rested when they know that their boys have come under the supervision and influence of our superintendent and his staff.

It is so recognized by those who are interested in the shipping trade. We regularly ship the crews of many of the steamship lines calling at this port and in emergencies ship owners and masters, whether of sailing or steam vessels, turn to the Institute for help to fill their crew lists.

At The Breakwater, at 19 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, accommodating 100

men, we frequently care for shipwrecked crews. During the past year 10,985 men have been lodged at The Breakwater and the number of men at meals was 15,108.

The foreign Consulates, with whose shipping offices we come in daily contact, recognize the Institute, and the police of the city well know the value of its activities and influence.

In a word, the Institute has become a municipal, a national and an international organization, performing work and benefiting seamen in every port. During the past year in our free shipping bureau we have shipped 2,361 men and have found temporary work in port on shipboard for 907 men. During the same period we have provided crews for 230 vessels and regularly supplied men for over 30 different companies and agencies.

During the last year the department devoted to seamen's savings has received from seamen \$113,608.79, of which \$52,091.86 has been transmitted to the dependent families of these men. There were 2,153 depositors and 939 transmissions. In the same period the reading rooms maintained at No. 1 State street and No. 341 West street have been visited by 130,606 seamen, a daily average of 417 sailors.

Our society is now maintaining the following: at No. 1 State street, on the Battery, its free shipping bureau, seamen's savings department, and reading rooms for seamen apprentices and petty

officers; at No. 341 West street, its reading and recreation rooms for seamen; also the Church of the Holy Comforter at 341 West Houston street, and the Floating Church at the foot of Pike street; and, lastly, The Breakwater, its seamen's hotel in Brooklyn, already referred to.

At the stations of the society during the past year 6,489 pieces of baggage have been checked, most of this at State street, where we charge 10 cents per piece, which the seamen gladly pay for the security they obtain.

Our Committee on Legislation has been watchful in securing compliance with the laws for the protection of seamen, enacted last year, and described in our last report.

Our harbor boat, "Sentinel," has made 426 trips and visited 2,698 ships during the current year, and has greatly added to the efficiency of the work of our Institute by transporting 1,965 seamen from ship to shore, from harbor to hospitals, and for religious services at the Floating Church.

In May we commenced the publication of a monthly paper well named The Lookout, published at a cost to subscribers of \$1 per year, but mailed free to every person contributing \$2 or more yearly to the Society's work. Excellent results have already been obtained by this publication. Our monthly circulation is now 2,000.

How closely we are in touch with the seamen arriving at this port is further shown by the fact that during the past year at the stations of our society, 26,150 letters were written and received by seamen.

Now as to the religious side of our work. We have proved to the sailors that we can help them in their mate-

rial wants, and we have their confidence so that they turn to us freely for advice and spiritual guidance.

Many are trying to conquer their worst enemy, the drink evil, as well as other temptations, and the words of encouragement and advice from our chaplain help them, and they freely show their gratitude to us.

They attend the services at the Floating Church and at the Church of the Holy Comforter and at The Breakwater in considerable numbers. They make the service by their presence for they compose the congregation and do most of the singing.

The aggressive work of the Society during the past ten years has been carried on with very indifferent tools, and, as the volume of work forced upon us has increased, they have become inadequate and ill adapted for the proper treatment of the work now facing us. One, and only one solution for these difficulties exists, that is the erection of a suitable Institute building to centralize and house our activities.

After several years of careful thought and study the ideal situation for this building was found at the corner of South Street and Coenties Slip where a plot ninety-one feet on South Street and one hundred and twelve feet on Coenties Slip has gradually been put together. The contract for the first lot was signed in December, 1905, and for the last lot in January, 1910, the plot being secured from five different owners, the total cost of the land being \$242,500, of which \$62,500 came from a fund left by the late Robert B. Minturn. On this plot we propose to erect a model Institute which will comprise a free shipping bureau, abundant facilities for the storing of seamen's baggage, commod-

ious reading, writing and recreation rooms for sailors, with separate rooms for apprentices and petty officers, a supply shop where the men can be outfitted for their voyage, provision for the receipt, custody and transmission of the seamen's wages, game rooms supplied with billiard tables, and accommodations in the shape of separate sleeping cubicles for at least 500 men, one floor being reserved specially for officers and apprentices. Such a building must be twelve stories high and will probably cost about \$500,000. The building will also contain a chapel large enough to accommodate at least 300 men, and a large hall where lectures and entertainments can be given.

No money will be wasted in its construction, but it must be fireproof. It will be built of brick and in general appearance will be like the Mills Hotels except that it will have rooms for educational and institutional work which the Mills Hotels lack.

A careful study of conditions on our waterfront convinces us that such a building can be readily filled, and if so, judging from the experience of those in charge of the Mills Hotels, it will be more than self-supporting.

An Important Commission

At the recent General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church an important resolution was passed, continuing the work of two previous general conventions and carrying it forward. The movement is in the direction of the federation of all the seamen's institutes affiliated with this church.

The first step toward this desired end was taken six years ago at the General Convention of the Church in Boston, when the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, That the House of Bishops concurring, that a joint commission to consist of three Bishops, three Presbyters, and three Laymen, be appointed in order to concert measures:

1st. To further co-operation between existing agencies in this work among sailors, where it is practicable.

2d. To foster, under the Diocesan and local authority, the opening of new centers for such work in our seaports and inland ports where opportunity offers.

3d. To raise up trained men and develop means for the strengthening of such agencies, and especially to evoke a more general habit among our church people of devoting thank offerings made in connection with the use of the Thanksgiving For a Safe Return From Sea, to the maintenance of the work.

4th. To report to the next General Convention, etc."

At this convention a Joint Commission upon Work Among Seamen was appointed. It reported to the General Convention held in Richmond in 1907, recommending that a Central Board for Church Work Among Seamen be appointed and organized under the auspices of the Board of Missions, and be known as the "Seamen's Church Institute of America." It was resolved that this Board should consist of five Bishops, five Presbyters, and five Laymen. The Board was appointed with the Rev. A. R. Mansfield, Superintendent of this Institute, as one of its members. As yet it is a formal but unorganized body.

At the recent General convention, held in Cincinnati, a resolution was passed ordering the Board of Missions to formally organize this new Board in order that it might proceed to carry out the scheme of work outlined for it at the General Convention of 1904.

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

The Lookout will be published monthly and sent free to those who have contributed two dollars or more to the Institute. To others the subscription price will be one dollar a year.

Have you read Norman Duncan's "Youngsters of the Seven Seas," in the Christmas issue of Harper's Monthly? It is a story about the work of this Institute.

On another page of this issue of The Lookout, we call attention to the latest step taken by the Protestant Episcopal Church in organizing "The Seamen's Church Institute of America," an organization whose name may easily be confused with that of this society, "The Seamen's Church Institute of New York." The purpose of this commission, as will be evident from reading the report, is to co-ordinate the various agencies organized under diocesan and local auspices for the benefit of seamen. Each society will be asked to agree to mutual affiliation while retaining its own entire independence; to organize institutes for seamen in ports which have no such societies; to safeguard marine legislation; to interest inland cities in this work at the ports; and to act as the Intelligence Department of the Church marine work.

We look with great favor and interest upon the progress of this important undertaking. It is infused with the modern spirit that has guided us in our aggressive work. First of all it is neces-

sary for those connected with this, as with all other work, to know the conditions with which they have to deal, the situations to be faced, and the facts concerning the work as it is carried on. Those who are engaged in philanthropic work for the benefit of seamen have a field to cultivate that is wider than the uninitiated appreciate. There are, probably, at this time, at least 200,000 men employed on the vessels of the American Merchant Marine; perhaps 3,000,000 seamen toil on the sea; it is commonly estimated that 500,000 of them visit this port each year. While this port is growing with great rapidity and now has pre-eminence over all other ports in the world, we do not forget that other American ports are growing with rapidity also. And we do not forget, for one moment, that the greatness of this port in the future is to be tremendous. That cannot be forgotten while plans are being announced week after week for the development of adjacent territory at Jamaica Bay, at Staten Island, and in New Jersey; all of which will be practically a part of this one eastern gateway to the nation.

The work of the Church among seamen has most of its future ahead of it, just as the greatest work at this port is to be in the future. This Institute is planning to build a new and model building, a picture of which appears on the front cover of The Lookout, not only because the work has culminated in an undertaking of great magnitude, but also because its future is bound to be more vast than either its present or its past. We have a fore-handed desire to be prepared to do our share of the work that is to be done, which now engages the serious thought and planning of the general church, and that we can-

not do in the present cramped and inadequate quarters.

We also print elsewhere the story of the shipwreck of the Crown Prince and the plucky adventure of Paton. We print this story in order that the readers of The Lookout may know what fine fellows some of these apprentices and seamen are, and in order that they may know one of the many important uses to which The Breakwater is put. The seamen have been maladvertised too often by themselves and the notion has gone abroad that they are less deserving than this story about Paton indicates. In such an environment as they have been compelled to live in and under such circumstances as they have been compelled to accept in the past, it is a wonder that the sailor world can make as good a showing as it can. They are the men, above all others, who have been subject to degrading influences from which there was no escape; if any duty is clear, it is the duty of this port to prevent a recurrence of the waterfront conditions that we take some of the credit of destroying. The Breakwater has a welcome for such unfortunate fellows as the crew of the Crown Prince; it has also a welcome for as many other seafaring men as it can accommodate, and offers its opportunities, though they are very inadequate, to them all.

Let us remind those who are interested, or who may become interested in the Institute, of several ways they may contribute sums of \$100 or more to the new building and have their contributions perpetually recognized. The following schedule has been arranged:

Rooms, each \$100.

Groups of five rooms, \$500.

Groups of ten rooms, \$1,000.

Halls of rooms (entries) \$2,300,
\$2,700, \$3,600.

Floors of rooms, each, \$8,600.

The Chapel, \$10,000.

A brass plate will be attached to the door of each room, bearing the name of the church, class, club, or other organization or individual contributing its cost as indicated above and a similar arrangement will be made for each of the larger objects. It would be especially gratifying to have the cost of the chapel contributed by some individual or organization.

Arrangements will be made with any one who, having a particular interest in some department of the work, such as the savings department, free shipping office, recreation or class rooms, to identify his name permanently to the object of his contribution. A similar arrangement will be made, of course, with any who wish to make a contribution in memory of a relative or friend.

First Aid

At the sixth annual convention of the American Red Cross, to be held December 6th, a report of the work of a new branch of the War Relief Board will be presented. This branch is known as the Committee on First Aid and includes the Institute's superintendent, Rev. A. R. Mansfield, among its members. The committee has the industrial world for its field, aiming to diminish the injuries that occur in the industrial world by teaching industrialists of all kinds what to do in case of accident or emergency. The sailors have been recognized among the industrialists and it is in co-operation with this committee that courses of First Aid instruction were established at our seamen's hotel, The Breakwater.

North River Station Notes

On the evening of November 11th, we had the first concert of the season. The hall was crowded, and full forty men stood throughout the entertainment. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed.

On Tuesday morning, November 15th, the Chaplain presented two stokers, William Allen and George Whitehead, from the S. S. Lusitania for confirmation at Calvary Church. Bishop Greer's remarks to the men at the close of the service could not have been more helpful.

Two other men have come this month to the Institute voluntarily, to take the pledge.

The Institute has been presented by a friend, with a five and eight gallon hot water and coffee urn, connected with running water and with gas.

Flowers for All Saints' Day were received from Mrs. John Jewell Smith in memoriam.

Contributions for the Christmas Fund have been received from Mr. Francis C. Moore, Mr. Richard I. Brewster and Mrs. W. Edward Vermilye.

A check for the winter entertainment fund has been received from Mr. A. G. Farr of Chicago.

Other contributions in the interest of the work have been, knitted mufflers from Mrs. W. Edward Vermilye, two barrels of reading matter from the Church Periodical Club of St. Michael's Church, two packages of same, from the King's Daughters, books for the library from Miss Walton of Philadelphia.

On Thanksgiving night at the Seamen's Christian Association, 399 West Street, the annual Thanksgiving dinner and entertainment was given. Mr. Stafford Wright and assistant workers spare no effort to make these occasions thor-

oughly successful. On this occasion the ex-shipmates of Mr. Barlow—our new lay-assistant—in the steward's department of the S. S. Baltic, presented him with a handsome silver tea service as a mark of the esteem which they accord him and wished him Godspeed in his new work at the North River station.

On Christmas Day we hope to keep "open house" for the seamen. A substantial Christmas dinner to be served during the afternoon and evening, except from 6:30 to 8, when the Christmas Carol service will be held in the church. At this service it is hoped one of the ship's orchestras will accompany the organ. Arrangements will be made to avoid confusion, and we hope the congregation from sea and land will fill church and reading-room.

Contributions for Christmas gifts and the dinner are respectfully solicited. There will be a uniform gift—a package of tobacco. There are hundreds of sailors away from home or homeless, and we wish to make Christmas Day and its message speak to them.

Will you please help by sending contributions either to Mr. Frank T. Warburton, treasurer, 1 State street, marked "North River Station," or direct to the chaplain, Rev. Chas. B. Carpenter, 341 West street.

We should be grateful for a large number of comfort bags.

An Apprentice's Coffee

"I'll go, sir."

It was Paton's voice that answered the Captain's call for a volunteer to swim ashore with a life line.

The S. S. Crown Prince, laden with bags of coffee, had stopped at Barbados after an uneventful trip from Brazil.

From the Windward Islands she had headed for New Orleans but hardly had she entered upon the second leg of her journey before a hurricane swooped down out of the sky and drove her out of the course. For three days the storm had raged and at last the steamer was driven upon the reefs to the south of the western end of Cuba.

The next morning Paton had gone aft with the second officer to make coffee for the crew, as they had eaten nothing since the day before. Just about the time the coffee was ready, the Captain called all hands and asked for some one to swim ashore with a line that the life-saving apparatus might be made fast to the huge trees on the beach.

No one spoke at once. They all looked at Paton, who was known to be the best swimmer on the ship. Once, on a wintry night, he had missed his footing and fallen into the icy waters of the East river. The swift tide and floating ice carried and beat him out from shore into the darkness of midstream. It was an hour before he attracted attention and in that hour he had held his own against the strength of the tide and the bruising of the ice. After that he had a reputation and the crew looked to him, in their distress, to live up to it.

It was not a time to stand about and calculate's one's chances in the rough sea after the storm; some one must act and Paton did what was expected of him. For more than a week he had been limping about on an injured foot, but that was forgotten for the moment and he plunged into the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea. The waves swept over him. The broiling sun beat down upon his unprotected head. The waves dashed him against the sharp edges of the coral reefs from which he sank back

bruised and bleeding only to have the salt water add to the smart of his wounds. The shore was not more than 300 yards away, yet he battled against the waves for an hour and a half before he could fling himself almost exhausted upon the shore.

Then came the task of fastening the line to the trees on the beach and rigging the apparatus by which his comrades were to be carried over the waves with which he had struggled. When it was done, the entire crew, except one seaman who had been lost over the ship's side the night before, stood beside him upon a desolate beach, watching their ship founder on the reefs.

They had brought a few provisions ashore with them and they dug holes with their hands in the sand from which they took brackish drinking water. There was no sign of habitation within forty miles and when the Captain had tramped along the shore to it, he found that the wireless station had been demolished in the storm. Havana was more than 200 miles to the north.

Long weary days of privation and suffering followed to be rewarded at last by the arrival of a schooner whose captain agreed to take all hands to Havana for 100 bags of the coffee that had been saved from the wreck. What were 100 bags with a cargo worth a million dollars being destroyed on the reefs before them? At Havana, the British Consul was sought out and with his aid arrangements were made for their transportation to New York. But back in this port, neither schooner captains nor consuls were sought for. The apprentices remembered that they had old friends at hand and hurried to this Institute where a warm welcome awaited them. Everyone was looked after.

Everything needful was done for them. The whole crew, excepting the captain, chief engineer and chief officer were sent to The Breakwater until they were paid off and had been shipped back home or finding a new outfit, "got a ship."

"The worst of it all was," Paton remarked modestly, when the story was told at the Institute, "that I never got a drop of that coffee. They drank it all up while I was swimming ashore."

The Sailor in the Hospital

With that open and generous spirit which pervades St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Hospital a Protestant clergyman is made to feel at home and enjoys unflinching courtesy. It is a pleasure to go. There is no feeling of restraint in having a quiet service at the bedside of a patient, and to make any request of a Sister or nurse is to be met at once with gracious compliance. St. Vincent's is the hospital nearest to the ships on the North River—a large hospital well equipped and well governed. Without fail the Chaplain of the North River station visits this hospital on Sunday afternoons and two or three times during the week.

These hospital visits mean very much to the Chaplain. That they also are of value to the patients and to members of their distant families, anxious over their sick, is without question.

Under normal conditions men do not give their confidences into another's keeping, but in these long stretches of time in a ward, a man will speak plainly, and with this more direct and certain knowledge, an understanding and a friendship ripens, and from these open talks we see how much alike men are—when we get below the surface.

Typhoid, pneumonia, accident and

operation are chiefly the enforced causes of admission. One patient, admitted on the third day of June, has undergone three serious operations, while another is pending, and the chances are that the new year will be well advanced before his discharge. This is a situation in which he proves himself, and the patient in question, a man of middle life, accustomed always to health and hardihood, has never flinched—undergoing one of the three operations without anesthetic.

Last month in these columns we made reference to the grateful recognition on the part of families in sorrow for care and attention at the time of burial of loved ones far from home. We receive letters likewise, appreciative of our services in the hospitals which make it a privilege to be able to do a little something—letter writing, or lending books, or supplying papers, occasionally sending a few flowers or ice cream, or simply sitting down for a talk—any of which, distant friends appreciate quite as much as does the patient. Anything that has in it some real personal element is not amiss in the eyes of a patient, and two cents and a little time relieves anxiety in the far-away homes. Perhaps it is a mother writing in deep anxiety, or a wife about her husband, and if one can be a messenger of good things through the simple means of writing letters, surely substantial relief and encouragement to both patient and the home is secured at small cost.

Like many another blessing the value of good health is not realized until denied, and to a percentage of the men the hospital experience deepens the realization of good health as a chief asset in life and they go away with a better idea of its use and regulation.

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, 1910.

Savings Department.

October 1, cash on hand.....	\$15,838.25
Deposits	12,416.50
	\$28,254.75
Payments, (\$4,619.20 trans- mitted)	\$12,783.10
	November 1, balance\$15,471.65

Shipping Department.

Number of vessels shipped entire by the Institute	23
Number of men provided with em- ployment in port	88
Number of men shipped	208
	Total
	296

Reading Rooms.

Total attendance	10,035
Letters written and received ...	2,641
Packages reading given	1,065
Number pieces baggage checked..	616

Relief Department.

Assisted	41
Sent to Legal Aid Society.....	45
Visits to hospitals	14
Visits to ships in port	181

Religious Department.

Number of services	20
Attendance, total	562
Communion services	3
Funerals	3

Institute Boat "Sentinel."

Trips made	42
Visits to vessels	63
Men transported	175
Pieces baggage transported	190