

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?

A description of our specific needs will be found in the June issue.

Subscriptions may be made payable any time before May 12, 1912; checks should be sent to Mr. Edmund L. Baylies, 54 Wall Street, New York.

THE LOOKOUT

Published by the Seamen's Church Institute of New York

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The New Elevation

A cut of the new elevation appears on the cover of THE LOOKOUT this month, replacing the tentative sketch which has grown familiar to our readers. This present drawing is final and gives an accurate picture of the way the new building will look when completed. All the windows are clearly indicated as are the South street entrances to the shipping departments in the basement and the main entrance on Coenties slip. The principal change that will be noticed is the placing of the main entrance to the building on Coenties slip instead of on South street. This change has aided materially in the proper subdivision of the interior of the building. It will also tend to prevent the gathering of crowds of men who would have hung about the door on South street, impeding access to the building.

With this new picture to study there may be some who would like a more detailed description of the architecture. It is a blending of Dutch and Gothic—perhaps Flemish is a better word than Dutch. Of the twelve stories, eight are given over to bedrooms. Those begin with the fifth floor. As the sketch indicates, the Gothic windows of the lower floors are repeated above the dormitory floors. The Gothic trefoil is placed inside a Romanesque arch, a device adapted for transition purposes, perhaps, as a step to the Flemish finials of

the parapet, where a broad touch of Renaissance feeling is rather emphatically hinted. The whole building is drawn together by an octagonal corner tower, with touches of Gothic, that terminates in a very Flemish lantern.

Surmounting this is the mast from which will fly the Institute flag, the American flag, and signal flags. At night there will be always the lighted lantern in the tower, her distinctive colors in friendly rivalry with her sister torch in the uplifted hand of Liberty just across the harbor.

One's first impression of the new elevation is that it is an imposing structure. But it is neither too large for the work for which it is designed, nor too impressive for the position it will occupy. Situated at a commanding point on the water-front, it will be a stately figure to the approaching traveler. It will stand out from its fellow units which form Manhattan's sky-line with a simple dignity, striking a distinctive note among the multitude of its commercially-bent companions. It is to be in a manner representative of New York's spirit, an emblem of the finest ideals of the community. It must typify to American and foreigner alike the lofty sentiment and sincerity of purpose of those who have had its interest at heart.

It seems almost unnecessary to state that the new building is being constructed with rigid economy and a searching analysis of each expenditure.

The Sailor and the Hotel

APPLYING A MOTTO

"What we specialize in at the Breakwater is clean rooms and good meals; that is the way we uplift."

When one of the staff at the Breakwater, our seamen's hotel, said that the other day he epitomized the important work being done over there at 19 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn. It has been successfully demonstrated that the sailor ashore genuinely appreciates a clean, well-aired sleeping room and nourishing food, and the Breakwater supplies just these things.

Of course it is seriously handicapped now by cramped conditions and the rapidly degenerating neighborhood in which it is situated. But with the sentence quoted above for its motto it has laid the foundation for significant uplift work. A great deal more is done at the little hotel.

THRIFT ENCOURAGED

The Savings Department over there is growing rapidly. Last month nearly \$2,000 was deposited by seamen guests. The man in charge of this department meets the ships and accompanies the crews to the consul's office where they are paid off. Then he says to each one:

"Tom, (or Dick or Harry) see here, boy, don't you think you had better send some money home? Or let us keep it for you? You know that if you have it you will simply get drunk." And that his arguments are both effective and convincing is amply proven by the figures above.

CREWS SUPPLIED

The savings department man is the shipping man, too, at the Breakwater.

When the writer went in to ask how things were going, he had just returned from seeing a crew on board a ship. He had received word that five men had deserted from a freighter bound for Argentina and he had to supply five more at once, equipping them with "gear". So he looked over his books for an expert engineer, two good firemen and two ordinary seamen. When they were found and had signed, the "Sentinel" took them over to the vessel. A little later he was heard talking to some men he had booked to sail for South America the following morning.

"Now, see here, boys," he said, "remember that the S. S. Prince sails for Brazil at 6 A. M. The "Sentinel" will take you on board at ten o'clock tonight. Got your gear?"

The gear was all supplied from the little store, known as the "slop chest."

THE SAILOR AS SHOPPER

It is a quaint little place—the store. You are greeted at once by the odor of oil-skins. It brings to your mind a hundred memories of wet days on slippery decks, only you could always go under cover when you wished, but the lonely figure in the dripping coat had to stay on duty until the next watch was called. But—about the store. Coats and hats hang on pegs, while boots, shoes, slippers for the firemen and stokers' thin black caps, with long peaks to protect the eyes from cinders, fill one corner. Matches, soap, tobacco and "eating gear" that is, knives, forks and spoons are ranged neatly on the shelves or in the deep drawers which line one side.

"Give me two cans of 'Union Leader' tobacco," says one man with the husky voice that comes from swallowing sea

fog, "and three dozen boxes of matches and a dozen cakes of 'Life Buoy' soap."

"You want a bed," puts in one of his companions.

"Yes," assents the shopper, "and a knife and fork and two spoons."

The bed is just wide enough to fit into a bunk on a vessel. It is a mattress filled with excelsior and costs the sailor \$1.00. Usually these are left on the ship, new ones being bought each voyage. These used to be called "donkey's breakfasts" because they were formerly filled with straw.

When the man finished his purchases, the store-keeper began to read his list of them with the amounts.

"Oh, never mind that," said the shopper impatiently; "just add 'em up."

"No," insisted the Institute man; "I want you to know just what you paid for things.

Another shopper whose order began with "Navy Plug, B. & B." had some money and received a five-dollar bill in change. He said he was going out to buy a special kind of bag for his things.

"Well, go and get it, but *don't* stop to take a glass of beer," admonished the earnest store-keeper.

"You know what I am goin' to get?" queried the seaman with a strong British accent, "a rattling good feed. That's what I am goin' to get, and I can get it right here, too."

"That you can, mate," agreed a sailor in a grey jacket, with a fur collar that smacked of Norway.

A broken glass in one of the show-cases catches your attention.

"Oh," explains the store-keeper, "there was a crew of sixteen men all here

at once last night and all full of fun."

This little incident showed more strikingly than anything else the need for expansion. The store is very tiny and very popular. A room four times the size would not be too large and in our new building we hope to provide one of ample dimensions. Each one of the sixteen men referred to was fitted out with complete gear. To have sole charge of this store would delight the heart of some aggressive New England shop-keeper. It should be a big feature of the work at Coenties slip and South street.

THE LUNCH COUNTER

At one end of the sunny dining room has just been added a business-like and inviting lunch counter. It was thought that the sailor who might wish simply for a cup of coffee and a sandwich would use this convenient method when he might not care to sit at one of the tables and have the regular dinner. Sitting in a row on the high stools before the shining new counter the other day were a Scandinavian, two Russians, an Arab and a German. And the man presiding over the gleaming coffee urns understood them all.

A case furnished with tobacco catches your eye. Perhaps you fancied sailors always smoked "Sailor's Delight." You were wrong. They much prefer "Navy" or "Duke's Mixture", and many of them have discarded the picturesque pipe for cigars. There is a gas lighter for these patrons.

Two large billiard tables stand at the other end of the long dining room.

"You see," explained the man in charge, "we want the men to play billiards in here instead of at the corner pool-rooms.

THE LOOKOUT

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ARCHIBALD R. MANSFIELD, Superintendent

The Lantern in the Tower

There is an inclination in the minds of most of us to sentimentalize a little about the sailor. One thinks of his life as being picturesque. We read absorbing tales of adventure and shipwreck. And we grow accustomed to the figure of the light-house as a beacon to the sailor in distress. Its cheerful, guiding rays on the storm-tossed seas have figured repeatedly in verse and prose. The directors wish to avoid that particular kind of sentimentality regarding the lantern in the tower of our new Institute. For, while the sea and the seamen offer possibilities for the pen of the story-teller, they afford the same opportunities for a practical viewpoint.

Rather is the Institute's viewpoint the practical one. If it is to influence the seaman it must regard him sanely, as an ordinary man whose work places him in peculiar and unusual circumstances. The very nature of the employment of the seaman brings him face to face with situations he is ill-equipped to meet. The Institute has tried to make him feel its very genuine interest in him; its very sincere desire to help him with its mature experience; and its earnest belief in his ultimate self-realization. It has tried to create a sense of confidence and to instill a simple faith in the minds of the seamen who come within its influence;

and for the most part it has succeeded.

So that is what is symbolized by the lantern in the tower. When the incoming mariner sees its light shining across the harbor, it will suggest to him comfort, security, friends who really care about him, wholesome recreation and companionship. It will mean to him increased self-respect and new ideals, although he may not realize them in just those terms. He will only know, perhaps, that he instinctively brushes his coat, pulls together the neck of his flannel shirt, and sets his cap straight before he enters the door at Coenties slip.

An Exchange Column

Each month hereafter a column (and more when space permits) will be devoted to excerpts from the periodicals and weeklies published by sister organizations. There exists, naturally, a very friendly interest among the directors of the Institute in the work of everyone engaged in furthering the cause of the seamen. It seems to us that there should be greater co-operation between the societies whose purposes are identical and we shall print short paragraphs, giving credit, from magazines interested in seamen and shipping, with the hope that the courtesy will be acknowledged.

Calendars Needed

Requests are being made daily for 1912 calendars. Officers, apprentice lads and seamen alike seem to want these and the demand is generally greater than we can supply. Will someone please send us some small ones, with modest decorations but clear date pads? We shall appreciate them enormously.

Memorial Rooms

Four of the large rooms in the new building, in addition to the Chapel, have been reserved. They are:

SITTING ROOM—\$10,000

(About 35 x 86 feet, with mezzanine floor)

Taken by Mr. Lispenard Stewart.

READING ROOM—\$5,000

(About 54 x 60 feet)

Taken by Messrs. Wheaton B. Kunhardt, Henry R. Kunhardt and Mrs. E. Walpole Warren. *In Memoriam, Henry Rudolph Kunhardt.*

OFFICERS' READING ROOM—\$2,000

(About 25 x 50 feet)

Taken by members of the Produce and Maritime Exchanges as a memorial to the late Philip Ruprecht.

APPRENTICE ROOM—\$2,000

(About 26 x 46 feet)

Taken by the Seamen's Benefit Society.

This leaves eight rooms which 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.

Memorial Bedrooms

One hundred dollars furnishes a bedroom in the new building. This is not a large sum but by means of it one hundred men may come under the Institute's influence and enjoy a temporary dwelling-place that means home.

There are three hundred and fifty bedrooms which are not reserved. If you wish to give a moderate sum in memory of relatives or friends, here is a tempting opportunity. Each room may be inscribed with the name of the donor or of the persons he wishes to memorialize.

Exchanges

A recent issue of *Shipping* (illustrated) quotes Mr. Bennett, British Consul-General at New York as saying that whereas New York was formerly one of the worst "crimping ports" in the United States the practice has been seriously checked. He attributes this very largely to the Free Shipping Bureaus of the Seamen's Church Institute and the Seamen's Christian Association.

That drunkenness among sailors is decreasing is the opinion of an official in the post office at Toledo, O., says *Temperance* in its October number. The reason given for this belief is that since the opening of the 1911 marine season more than \$12,000 has been sent away in money orders by the captains, engineers, mates and sailors entering the Toledo harbor. This saving of money is thought to be largely due to the fact that the day of the intoxicated seaman has passed.

The contention of authorities that people are safer on the water than anywhere else, seems to be proved by the annual report of the Steamboat Inspection Service. It shows, says the *Mariner's Advocate*, that the loss of life from all causes among both passengers and crews during the year was 379 for 328,666,000 passengers carried.

The Church and the Sailor, published in London, says: "During the month no less than 1,260 letters have been written by fishermen in our Institute. After hard work and ceaseless visiting, the Scotch fishermen have again been induced to come to us in large numbers; at one concert nearly 400 men were present and even had to sit on the window sills and crowd the doorways."

An Appealing Letter

Among scores of similar ones, this letter which is published below, seems pathetic:

"The Breakwater,
19 Atlantic Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

DEAR SIR:—Will you be so kind to let me know if my Husband ——— of the S. S. ——— is in your home, for I got told that he is leave the ship in N. Y. and I would be very thankfull too you to let me now for he has not sent me a penny home to me and my 3 childens sence he joined the S. S. ———.

Please Sir, it is very hard for a man to go away and leave a wife and 3 childens without any monney for I wrot to Para to him and I wrot to N. Y. as well and he has not answered my letter and I want you if you will be so kind to go to my husband and ask what he is going to do with his wife and 3 childens and will you be so kind as to let me now as soon as you can, for I am in subspent.

Yours faithfull,

A record is kept of each man who comes under our care and efforts are being made to trace the one referred to in the above letter. Sometimes five letters of this character are received in one day. The investigation and correspondence connected with just these cases require not only an enormous amount of time and labor but a fund of tact and diplomacy. But when the effort is rewarded by finding the man and awakening in him a sense of his responsibilities, fresh courage is given to the Institute worker and added belief in the "worthwhileness" of his endeavors.

North River Station

A RECENT CONCERT

The tiny auditorium of the North River Station was packed to the limit of its capacity on the evening of October 3rd, when a most successful concert was given by men from the Adriatic and Mauretania. It was impossible to admit everyone but it seemed particularly hard to turn away those who had walked some twenty blocks from the Chelsea Piers. We are eagerly anticipating the completion of the new building, whose auditorium will seat comfortably 600 men.

The program of the concert follows:

Piano Solo.....Mr. De Crea, S. S. Adriatic
 Recitation.....Mr. Martin, New York
 Song and Bones...Mr. Rankin, S. S. Adriatic
 Sentimental Song....Mr. Cox, S. S. Adriatic
 Sketches of London Life,

Mr. Carthern, S. S. Adriatic

Mandolin.....Mr. Hewson, S. S. Adriatic
 Comic Song...Mr. Barlow, N. River Station
 Song.....Mr. Tully, S. S. Adriatic
 Monologue..Mr. Pennington, S. S. Mauretania

Chairman:

REV. C. B. CARPENTER, *Chaplain.*

LIBRARY PLANS

The Institute Library has recently been increased by a generous contribution of books from Mrs. Ralph Pulitzer. We are especially grateful, as it is our intention to establish a circulating library when there are sufficient books to warrant this.

CLOTHES AND THE MAN

Contributions of partly-worn clothing will be appreciated at this station. As cold weather approaches the number of unemployed seamen increases, and many of these are most deserving. The earnings of the summer go and the out-of-work period extends until there follows

not only discouragement but the inevitable loss of functional and volitional capacities for work. Sometimes it happens that we can help a man to "brace up" and revive losing powers by making him feel comfortable and look respectable—he goes out in quest of work and finds it. The clothes have helped him to succeed.

HOT COFFEE

This station has large nickel-plated coffee and hot-water urns. We ask for contributions for coffee, sugar and milk. During cold weather hot coffee "on tap" for a cent or two a cup (and many times for nothing) will, we believe, have its salutary effect.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

It is time to ask the interest of our friends for our proposed Christmas Dinner for seamen. Last year it was a huge success. Three hundred and sixty seamen sat down to a turkey dinner on Christmas Day, served from 3 to 6 p. m. At the conclusion of the carol service in the evening, a pipe and paper of tobacco were given to each man. We want to repeat the success of last year's Christmas festival.

FLOWER GIFTS

Since last June Miss Margaret D. Leverich, under the auspices of the Fruit and Flower Guild, has supplied the Chapel, Altar and the Institute with a generous weekly gift of flowers. After the services these flowers have frequently been distributed among the boys and girls in the neighborhood, thereby accomplishing a two-fold result—delighted children and an abatement of the former annoyance of door-bell ringing and the hurling of missiles and "epithets".

Seamen's Missions was the subject of the address given by the Chaplain at the Archdeaconry Meeting at Bethel, Conn., on the evening of October 24th.

Pledges have been taken this month by a barge captain, by two firemen from the Lusitania, and by a stoker from the Caronia.

Dead Seaman Identified

An officer from the Battery Post of Harbor Police called at the Institute's North River Station one evening last week to obtain information concerning baggage check No. 491, found on the body of a man drowned in the Kill von Kull. From the man's effects, the home address in England was learned and the news communicated to the family by the Chaplain. On the morning following the officer's call, identification was made at the morgue on Staten Island and the next day the Chaplain read the office for the Burial of the Dead at the cemetery grounds.

Without this baggage check or careful record of it, there would have been another instance of the painful suspense of "awaiting a return" experienced by so many families of seafaring men. The sorrow caused by this accident must surely be mitigated by the knowledge that there were thoughtful friends in a distant place to lay the body to rest with Christian burial rites.

Police Protection Needed

Police Commissioner Waldo has been notified of the series of hold-ups recently perpetrated on West street, in the vicinity of the North River Station. The other evening, while two Swedes, father and son, were having their wounds dressed in the Institute, the same gang

who attacked these victims felled an old man, went through his pockets and made off. There have been three similar outrages on this same block within six weeks, and the Institute is making a demand for protection.

Savings Bank Books

Sometimes a seaman brings in a pass-book on a savings bank in England and requests us to send his money home. This being done, the bank immediately mails the book back to the Institute. One which was returned the other day was from the Seamen's Savings Bank, under the management of the Board of Trade. It showed a balance of £256 and the accompanying letter asked the depositor to withdraw £6, as he had exceeded the sum upon which the bank would pay interest. We cite this merely as an illustration of the variety and detail which characterizes the savings department work. The thrift of the seaman also deserves a special comment.

Shipping Department

Month Ending October 31, 1911

1 State Street

NAME OF VESSEL	MEN SHIPPED	DESTINATION
S. S. Christopher	6	Brazil
S. S. Crispin	2	Brazil
S. S. Weayali	13	Peru
S. S. Tennyson	28	Brazil
S. S. Verde	36	River Plate
S. S. Titian	1	Manchester
S. S. York Castle	2	South Africa
S. S. Texas	13	Coast
Barge Magnolia	2	Coast
S. S. Worthtown	2	Coast
S. S. Florida	2	Coast
Barge Caddo	2	Coast
S. S. Asiatic Prince	18	Brazil
S. S. Dorothy	2	Chile
S. S. Beta	1	Germany
Dredge	3	Harbour work
S. S. Star of Australia	1	Australia
U. S. Light-House		
Tender	4	Coast
Temporary work	52	On shipboard, etc.
From 341 West St.	12	Sent to various positions
Total	212	

REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

SEPTEMBER, 1911

Savings Department

September 1, cash on hand.....	\$14,282.61
Deposits	10,856.60
	\$25,139.21
Payments (\$4,451.20 transmitted)...	10,118.59
	\$15,020.62
October 1, balance.....	\$15,020.62

Shipping Department

Number of vessels shipped entire by Seamen's Church Institute.....	18
Number of men provided with employment in port.....	101
Number of men shipped.....	254
	355
Total (number of men).....	355

Reading Room

Total attendance	10,247
Letters written and received.....	2,948
Packages reading given.....	646

Relief Department

Assisted	104
Sent to Legal Aid Society.....	40
Hospitals visited	8
Visits to ships in port.....	121

Religious and Social Departments

Number of services.....	10
Attendance total	314
Communion services	1

Institute Boat "Sentinel"

Trips made	40
Visits to vessels.....	70
Men transported	183
Pieces baggage transported.....	315