
Volume I.

MAY, 1910

Number 1

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 \$352,000. We need \$340,000 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. You will find a description of the building on another page.

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.

MAY, 1910

No. 1

A Complete Institute

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE is one of the veteran organizations of this city. It was organized more than sixty-five years ago,—in 1844. For more than half a century it has had an interesting history. It has worked to improve the condition of the seamen coming into this port and to better the water front situation. During most of this long period the situation was well-nigh intolerable and the conditions affecting seamen were notorious. These have been very greatly improved and the Institute is justified in taking to itself a large share of the credit. The story may be repeated in future issues of THE LOOKOUT, but for the present we prefer to tell what the Institute is rather than what it has been.

During these sixty-five years it studied the needs of the sailor very carefully. Keeping pace with the times and adopting new and more aggressive methods as they were proved valuable, the managers have aimed to organize as complete an Institute as their resources would permit. It has learned that the needs of the seaman are very definite and correspondingly simple. But in order to satisfy these needs, its work must be complete.

When a seaman comes into this port, as about 400,000 do every year, his first need is a home and a welcome. He returns from a long trip and is freed from the restraint and loneliness of shipboard. He has money due him that he receives

when he is paid off. He is a stranger in the city; perhaps, without a single acquaintance. A notorious ring of boarding house keepers and shipping masters lies in wait for him, anxious for the opportunity to separate him from his money and make as much as they can out of him. Exploiting sailors for personal profit is their business. He will not remain here long. Having to earn his living he cannot afford to remain idle. He will need employment very soon. He has dependent relatives somewhere to whom he should send a part of his wages and who are eager to hear from him.

The Institute caters to these needs by furnishing him with a home at its hotel, The Breakwater, where he can have a separate room to himself, a clean bed, good food, wholesome recreation and good surroundings. Here he can leave his baggage and other valuables for safe keeping. Reading and writing rooms are at his disposal. The Breakwater will accommodate only 100 men. That means about 5,000 a year; not a very large percentage of the 400,000 coming annually to the port.

When the seaman is paid off in the shipping office of the British Consul the Institute's agent stands nearby ready to receive his money for safe-keeping and to forward to his relatives, free of charge, as much as he can spare. This banking department handles about \$120,000 of seamen's money yearly, or about one-quarter of the total pay-roll. It for-

wards nearly sixty per cent. of this to their dependents, thus providing for their necessity as well as comfort while keeping this money out of the hands of the ring and the dive-keepers. When he has money in his pocket Jack is his own worst enemy.

The Institute's Free Shipping Bureau furnishes employment to about 4000 seamen a year. Only one other organization of this kind, the Seamen's Christian Association, maintains such an employment agency. Without them the seamen would be dependent entirely upon the ring, as in the old days, and the ring always gets full value and more for any services it renders. As long as it controlled the market it could mulct the seamen as well as the owners and there is no way of putting an end to this exploitation except by means of the shipping bureaus.

For the last few years "sailortown" has been located in Brooklyn, opposite South Ferry. There The Breakwater is located. To meet vessels entering the port, to transport seamen and their baggage to the Breakwater, to transport them from harbor to hospital, and to and from religious and social services, the Institute uses its own boat, "The Sentinel." During the past year "The Sentinel" has made 462 trips and 2,698 visits to ships beside performing numerous other services of great utility. It is, in fact, the key to the whole work we are doing and an indispensable part of its equipment. To summarize this work, the Institute meets the incoming seamen with a welcome and offers him a home; it takes care of his money and forwards it to those dependent upon him; it secures employment for him when he is ready to return to sea, and while he is on land it provides him with reading, writing and game rooms and religious services. The

annual report shows how these privileges are appreciated. Last year almost 150,000 visits were made to the reading rooms, about 20,000 attended the religious services and 30,000 letters were written and received through the Institute's post-office.

There is another feature of the work that merits attention and that is the cooperation with the Seamen's Branch of the Legal Aid Society. The sailor is at a disadvantage legally because he remains ashore such a short time and frequently has no money. The courts are subject to many delays; when appeals are taken cases are prolonged beyond the sailor's endurance. The Institute's Committee on Legislation has always been alert to secure compliance with the laws for the protection of seamen. Since the organization of the Seamen's Branch the committee has acted in harmony with it. Last year the Institute referred 403 cases to the Society and that was an increase of about one-third over the previous year. There is no longer a reason why the sailor, notwithstanding his disadvantage, cannot secure legal redress.

Gave Jack a Confederate Bill

Confederate money has not ceased to play its part in the time-honored game of cheating sailor Jack, according to a statement from the Seamen's Church Institute.

Joseph Peetermans, who landed from a voyage in Norfolk, Va., last week, and received \$120 in wages, spent \$20 for expenses to New York, where he arrived last Wednesday with the remainder in his possession. On West Street, where there are so many attractions for the sailorman, Peetermans met a friendly

person several times, and it is to be presumed, exchanged courtesies with him after the manner of men of the sea. At any rate, after several meetings the friendly person asked him to change a \$100 bill for him, and this Peetermans readily did.

Then, as a bill of that size was not convenient to have, Peetermans in turn went to the Bowery Savings Bank to have it changed, only to find that it was a Confederate note. He then told the Seaman's Church Institute his story, and the case was promptly put in the hands of the police. Peetermans had a glimpse

of his companion on West Street last night, and it is hoped that he will soon be apprehended. This is the fourth case of a similar character which has come under the observation of the Institute in the last two years.—Reprinted from the *Evening Post*.

It is to protect the seamen against just such crooks as this that the banking department of the institute is maintained. In the new building five times as many seamen will come directly under our influence and the number of cases of theft and robbery will consequently be reduced.

General Summary of Work

From Dec. 1, 1908, to Dec. 1, 1909

Total number of services.....	464
Total attendance at services.....	19,867
Baptisms	13
Marriages	7
Burials	20
Visits of seamen at Reading Rooms.....	147,379
Visits of officers and apprentices.....	2,727
Letters received and written by Seamen.....	30,776
Attendance at entertainments.....	8,779
Money deposited for safekeeping and transmission	\$109,377.26
Number of home countries of depositors.....	61
Number of countries to which money has been transmitted.....	27
Number of deposits	1,937
Number of transmissions.....	702
Number of bags, chests, etc., cared for.....	7,124
Men shipped.....	2,516
Men provided with temporary, ship or other employment.....	1,102
Visits to ships, boats, boarding houses and hospitals	5,015
Bibles, prayer books and packages of reading matter distributed.....	9,971
Sent to hospitals, dispensaries and physicians	197
Sent to Legal Aid Society.....	403
Number of men aided from the Morrill and Morgan fund.....	1,298
Comfort bags and pieces of clothing given	1,728
Number of trips made with steamboat "Sentinel"	452
Number of men transported.....	1,694
Number of pieces of dunnage carried.....	2,186

THE LOOKOUT

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One State Street

Subscription Price - - One Dollar a Year

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

IN by-gone days, good people were apt so to fix their eyes on the world to come that they gave little heed to the world in which they lived. In modern times, it is becoming a habit to improve the spot in which we live and in which others live, as we go along.

To make human conditions more tolerable and an inspiration to better living is the wholesome method now employed.

That is the work in which this Institute has been engaged from its very organization. By its aggressive activities to protect the sailor from the bad influence of demoralizing surroundings and to improve his social and economic as well as his spiritual condition, it has earned the sympathy of its supporters.

The Board of Managers recognizes the right of those who have shown an interest in the Institute to be informed of its successes and its vicissitudes and to supply that information it sends out this, the first, issue of THE LOOKOUT.

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.

WE believe that our friends wish to have us take them into our confidence when we are in need and share our joy with them when we are in prosperity. Happily, our present message is one of hope and encouragement. We believe that our largest work lies in the future.

We are standing on the sill of a room of greater opportunity and usefulness. If the wind holds fair, in another year we will be sailing into our desired haven—the new building on the corner of Coenties Slip and South Street.

LATE in the year 1909 the Building Committee reorganized its plan to complete the building fund. In the first three months of 1910, the fund was increased by almost \$100,000. It has a long road to travel yet, but its appeals have been sympathetically received and it believes the people of this city will furnish the rest of the money needed.

DURING the past year the port of New York has taken first place among the ports of the world. Consequently, it should be second to none in its care of its seamen. The proposed new building will be a model to its kind along the coasts of all the Seven Seas. A description of it appears on another page.

THE INSTITUTE has been in existence now for 65 years. It has moved its quarters as the work has grown, yet without finding suitable lodgings. It is high time it had a permanent home and settled down where no change in waterfront conditions can disturb it. Such a home as has been planned will be a credit to the city and an honor to those who make it possible.

Warning

Every now and then a crook is discovered appealing for funds to support a work among the seamen that does not exist. The public is warned against making contributions without investigating the object for which appeals are made.

The New Building

THE INSTITUTE hopes to be able to begin the erection of the new building in the very near future. The work is now scattered over four separate stations, three in New York and one in Brooklyn. This is a disadvantage, and prevents economy of administration. Our present facilities are entirely inadequate. We cannot expand,—perhaps not even continue,—the work we are doing without a better equipment.

The new building will not be luxurious, but it would be a great mistake not to make it complete. Consequently, plans have been drawn for a structure that will accommodate all departments of this diversified institution except the West Side branch, The Church of the Holy Comforter, which will remain a separate station.

Before choosing a location for the proposed new Institute, the Building Committee considered carefully the future as well as the present needs of the work. While "sailortown" has been located in Brooklyn in recent years, certain changes have occurred in that locality that threaten its continuance. But whatever changes may occur there, the region near the Battery and on the East Side will remain a centre of "deep water" shipping. The Committee has purchased a spacious site on the corner of South Street and Coenties Slip.

This site has the advantage of being fronted by a park which will insure light and air as well as space. It is a commanding situation. Ships entering the port will be guided by a lantern in the tower of the building almost as soon as they have passed through the Narrows. The site is accessible from all sections of the city frequented by the sailors.

On this site the Institute proposes to erect a twelve-story building, with hotel accommodations for 500 men. The apartments reserved for officers will be separated from those arranged for the sailors. The entrance to the building will be on South Street, a favorite rendezvous for the sailors, and a street known in every port in the world. According to the present plans the feature of the ground floor will be a long entrance hall, leading to the hotel lobby in the rear. Along this hall, as in an arcade, the shipping office, banking department and supply store will be ranged. The chapel will be on this floor also, with an entrance from Coenties Slip as well as from the lobby.

On the three floors above, reading, writing, recreation and class rooms will be situated as well as an auditorium or assembly hall and the Institute's offices. The remaining stories will be reserved for dormitories. Each floor will be divided into about 80 separate rooms, say 6 x 9 in size, comfortably, though plainly furnished. The restaurant will be placed in the basement. Commodious and ample bathrooms will be scattered throughout the building, and in general, the building will be arranged, as far as the dormitory part is concerned, like a Mills Hotel.

The question is often asked why such a large project has been undertaken. The reasons for it are sound. Although it appears to be large it will not begin to accommodate the seamen at the port. Experience has proved that a smaller building would not prove self-sustaining and one of the desires the Institute has nourished most carefully is that this Institute shall be both self-supporting and contribute to the expense of conducting the other departments of the work. In

other words, it has planned to put forth a sound business proposition. Features of kindred institutions that are attractive and desirable yet unessential—luxuries—have been eliminated from the plans in order that a larger necessary work could be done without exceeding the Institute's resources.

In addition to the funds already raised \$340,000 is needed to carry out this project. It is a large sum of money but to this is opposed the soundness of investment. The Institute believes that the return in terms of practical helpfulness will challenge comparison with any other charity in this city. The money for the purchase of the land and the fund in hand toward the new building have been given by less than three hundred contributors in sums ranging from \$1.00 to \$62,500. Surely there are three hundred more generous persons who can contribute the remainder. For the convenience of those who care to contribute and who can contribute large sums, a schedule of objects has been arranged as follows:

Rooms, each, \$100; groups of rooms, 5, \$500; groups of rooms, 10, \$1,000; halls of rooms (entries), \$2,300, \$2,700, \$3,600; floors, each, \$8,600; 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, and a similar arrangement will be made for any of the larger objects which may be contributed. If a contributor is interested in any particular department, such as the banking or shipping office, recreation or class rooms, arrangements will be made to identify his name with it for as long a time as the Institute endures, and such contributions will be

gratefully received. The aim of the managers is to make the new building complete in its appointments to supply the practical needs of the seamen.

Legislation of 1898-1908

This Institute, with other societies, gave much attention in 1898 to the preparation of a bill, for the consideration of Congress, for the better protection of seamen. Its delegate to Washington, endorsed by many other societies, was successful. The desired legislation was enacted, and went into effect February 20, 1899. Among other reforms it required that vessels should be provided with at least one suit of woolen clothing for each seaman and a safe and warm room for their use in cold weather, the maintenance and shipment home of seamen discharged in a foreign port, the prohibition of corporal punishment, an adequate scale of provisions, enumerated in detail, with fresh provisions of fruit and vegetables when in port, and many other matters. In addition, many old and objectionable regulations were repealed. Subsequently bills advocated by the Institute were also enacted in Congress to prevent the ancient abuse of shanghaiing or kidnaping of seamen, and to require the constant use of life-saving appliances on board scows and barges, and the shortening of tow lines of same from a maximum of 10,000 feet to 2,000 feet, with many other protective features. The awful Slocum and La Bourgogne tragedies might have been much less terrible had these laws been enacted sooner.

Visitors

Mr. J. Ritchie Bell, manager of the Montreal Sailors' Institute.

Pastor Ditlevsen, of the German Seamen's Mission in Hamburg.

DEPARTMENTS

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

March, 1910

Banking Department

March 1, Cash on hand.....	\$13,664.69
Deposits	9,168.05
	\$22,832.74
Payments (\$2,597.15 transmitted)	7,441.00
	April 1, balance.....\$15,391.74

Shipping Department

Number of vessels shipped entire by Seamen's Church Institute.....	18
Number of men provided with employment in port.....	51
Number of men shipped.....	166
	Total
	237

Reading Rooms

Total attendance.....	14,201
Letters written and received.....	2,646
Packages reading given.....	1,039
Number pieces baggage checked..	490

Relief Department

Assisted	98
Sent to Legal Aid.....	36
Sent to Hosp. & Disp.....	5
Visits to hospitals.....	6
Sick seamen visited.....	64
Visits to ships in port.....	165

Religious Department

Number of services.....	33
Attendance total.....	1,557
Communion services.....	9
Baptisms	2
Funerals	2

Institute Boat "Sentinel."

Trips made.....	41
Visits to vessels.....	65
Men transported.....	166
Pieces baggage transported.....	192

Department of Social Work

One of the most important and perhaps least well known phases of the work of the Institute is its Social Department. The head of this department busies himself visiting ships, calling upon captains, officers, engineers, apprentices, sailors, firemen, stewards and cooks and inviting them to visit the Institute where they find games, cards, music, writing materials, &c. The larger part of this social work is carried on at the Battery Station, although work of a similar nature is conducted at The Breakwater and North River Station. The work is divided into two parts and conducted on different floors of the building in order that officers and apprentices may not be thrown together with the other seamen. That discipline may be maintained on board ship this segregation is necessary and adequate provision has been made for it in planning the new building.

The head of the department visits the ships at the port with the "Sentinel" on Sunday afternoons to gather up the seamen and bring them to the Institute to the tea which is held regularly throughout the year, after which they are taken to the Floating Church. These teas are often provided by church societies. Abundant sandwiches, home-made cakes, jellies and preserves are supplied, a welcome contrast to the ordinary ship "grub."

Week-day evenings are spent by the men smoking, talking, playing games and singing songs, and refreshments are usually served to them. Volunteer workers

come to the Institute twice a week and entertain the officers and apprentices. Hundreds of letters are written to those away from the port and in this way we keep in touch with them all the time. Reading matter, comfort bags, mufflers, and wristlets are given to those leaving port, for which we are indebted also to the church guilds.

Another feature of this work is hospital visiting. Our visitors help the sick to get in touch with their relatives. They find out the addresses of their families, communicate with them in case of death and, where no other provision has been made, bury the seamen in the Institute's plot in Evergreen Cemetery.

A chapter that can never be written is the story of private conferences between members of the staff and the seamen who find in them sympathetic advisers. The lives of the seamen are lives of few interests and naturally every experience is more or less of an event. The confidence and sympathy of the staff means more to them than we, whose lives are more eventful, can easily imagine. Their quarrels, friendships, and especially, their love affairs loom large before their minds and in the telling of them they find an outlet for very human emotions. To bring courage and cheer into isolated and impoverished lives is one of those things it is worth while doing.

BENEFITS

The Junior Auxiliary to Seamen's Church Institute, of Epiphany Church, was the first contributor to take a room in the new building. During the past month the Auxiliary conducted a fair at the rectory which netted two hundred and twenty-five dollars. One hundred and twenty-five dollars was donated to the Mary Leroy King Launch Endow-

ment Fund and the remaining one hundred to the new Institute.

On the afternoon of April 5th a benefit concert was given in the Astor gallery of the Waldorf-Astoria. The success of the benefit was due to Miss Louise Karr's generous energies. The concert netted sixty-three dollars, which were donated to the Ways and Means Committee for current expenses.

A room has been taken by the Chapel of the Intercession, and two rooms have been spoken for by the women of St. Ann's Church.

NOTES

The Rev. Chas. Blake Carpenter who, for five years, has been rector of St. Thomas' Church, Brandon, Vt., has accepted the call to become a chaplain of this Society and will take charge of the work at the North River Station, on the corner of Houston and West streets. He will succeed Chaplain W. A. A. Gardner, who has been connected with the Society for twenty years. Chaplain Carpenter will begin his work on May 1st.

The Rev. A. R. Harper-Smith, of The Missions to Seamen, paid us a visit on his way through New York from Valparaiso and the West coast of South America, where he has been chaplain. After a short stay in London, he will proceed to Delagoa Bay, to take charge of the work there.

We are looking forward to a visit from Chaplain Edgar Eland, of The Missions to Seamen, who is on his way to take charge of the work in San Francisco. He will succeed Chaplain Frank Stone, who has served through earthquake and fire, and leaves behind him a fine new Church and Institute, which he quickly built on the ruins of the old building. This he was able to do mainly because

of the deep interest and magnificent support of the Bishop of California.

Our Superintendent, Rev. A. R. Mansfield, has been appointed a member of the Red Cross National First Aid Committee.

Mr. Mansfield is now organizing a course of instruction in "First Aid to the Injured" for seamen at the Breakwater. A corps of naval medical officers have volunteered their services. It is expected that at least 70 seamen will take this course. Seamen are called upon so often to care for their injured shipmates that the need of the instruction is obvious.

Correspondence and Inquiries

Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Sir: I write this to you hoping that you, as a friend of the sailors, will convey this to my brother H. B.—, who for more than eight years has been a sailor; urge him to come immediately to his mother. I have not heard from him for a year and, now that his mother is sick and might not live, I hope that you will most earnestly help me in bringing him to her.

If you can locate him in any way, tell him to come immediately, as she is not expected to live.

Yours truly,
MRS. A. M. W——.

Seamen's Institute,
Valparaiso, Chile.

Dear Sir: I wish to ask you a favor if it will not be too much trouble to inquire for a young man by the name of J—— H—— B—— H——. He went out there by the ship "Copagen," belonging to Grace & Company. I have had several letters from him; the last was about two years ago when he said he had not received no letter from me, and I have written so many times, but why

he does not get my letters, I do not know, unless I have an enemy somewhere which stops them from reaching him. The last letter from him says he is in the Hudson Bay Company as second steward on the West Indies run to Jamaica. So if you could hunt him up and tell him that his father is in great trouble about him, tell him to write, even if he does not get any news from me, but I will still write, whether I get news or not. When he left here he had given way to drink. I hope he has left that off now. Oh, if only he would give his heart to the Saviour and live a Christian I should be contented, for I should know then he was safe. Please do me this favor and oblige a father in despair for his lost son.

Form of Bequest

I give and bequeath to the "SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK," a corporation of the State of New York, the sum of Dollars, to be used by it for its corporate purposes.

Donations for current expenses should be sent to

FRANK T. WARBURTON,
Treasurer,
68 William Street.

Form of Subscription to Building Fund.
New York,.....1910

I hereby subscribeDollars for the SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE, to be erected at South Street and Coenties Slip, New York City.

Payable

NOTE. *Subscriptions may be made payable in a single payment, or in installments, at any time prior to May 1, 1911. Send Checks to Edmund L. Baylies, 54 Wall Street.*