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The Romance of Salvation Army Work in Newfoundland.

(Contributed.)
Those whose privilege it will be to attend the Salvation Army's Annual Congress this year, and witness the large crowd of uniformed Salvationists gathered for the event, will find it difficult to realize that only thirty-eight years ago the Salvation Army was an unknown quantity in Newfoundland, and that the splendid force of officers, soldiers and adherents, which the Army now numbers has been organized and brought together in that comparatively short space of time. In October, 1884, a lady named Mrs. Dawson, formerly Miss Churchill, belonging to Portugal Cove, but who had resided in Canada for a number of years returned home to spend a holiday. While in Canada she had become connected with the Salvation Army, and on her arrival here commenced holding meetings in the old Temperance Hall Victoria Street. A good soul-saving work immediately started, and many converts were made, several of whom are still connected with the Army in this city, such as Mrs. Jones Barter, Sergt. Major Wm. Pike, and others. The great work done by Mrs. Dawson soon came to the notice of headquarters in Canada, and in January 1885, a small contingent of officers were sent from Toronto to formally open up the work here. They consisted of Capt. Phillips, Kimberly and Collins and Cadet Larder. These officers opened fire with a great open air meeting on the Parade Ground. Vast crowds gathered to hear their preaching and singing of the laudable in the Poke Bonnets, and it is recorded that the rough element was so much in evidence that the police had to be called in to try and keep order. The crowd eventually got beyond police control and the meeting was broken up, several of the Salvationists receiving minor injuries. Nothing daunted, the Salvationists set about to look for a suitable building to hold their meetings in, and eventually succeeded in purchasing Beards' Furniture Factory, Springdale Street, at present used by No. 1 Corps as a Sunday School, where they commenced holding meetings regularly and a large number of people became converted. The rough element was still in evidence, windows were occasionally broken, and Salvationists pelted with various missiles when going to and from meetings, but they went steadily and perseveringly forward, and soon succeeded in convincing their greatest enemies that the mission was to do good. For a considerable time they were only permitted to hold one march a week, and that usually took place Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The crowd were generally so great on this occasion as to make it necessary to have a guard of seven police to keep order. The first enrollment was held in the building then known as Atheneum Hall which stood on the site where the Museum now stands; there is no record of how many soldiers were made at that meeting, but there was a considerable number, several of whom are still connected with the various city corps.

FIRST ARMY WEDDING.

The first Army wedding was conducted by Major Scott on Aug. 6th, 1890 in Victoria Hall, the contracting parties being Mr. Jonas Barter and Miss Mildred Reid, both of whom are still with us. They have a large family all of whom are actively engaged in Army work. Mr. Barter is at present Sergeant Major of the No. 1 Corps in this city, and is respected by all classes for his integrity and sterling worth. He is one of the army's earliest converts and never tires of talking about the change which God through the instrumentality of the Salvation Army wrought in his life. As might be supposed the news

of what the Army was doing soon became noised abroad, and applications began to come from various outposts for the Army to commence work among them with the result that out of the first batch of officers, two were sent to places outside of St. John's. Capt. Collins going to Conception Bay and Cadet Larder to Greenspond. Great revivals broke out almost immediately in both these places, the influence of which made itself felt in the adjoining settlements, which in turn requested officers to be sent them, and so the work spread until to-day there are over 168 towns and villages in Newfoundland where the Salvation Army is established and devoted officers are labouring earnestly for the blessing of their fellow men.

SOCIAL WORK OF THE ARMY.

Any review of the Army work in Newfoundland would be incomplete without some reference to the Social Work which has been an untold blessing to the more unfortunate of our fellow citizens. The rescue work was inaugurated by Mrs. Staff Capt. Reid in 1892. The following extract from the book entitled "The Lady with the Lamp" by Mary Morgan Dean, will give some idea of the conditions prevailing in St. John's at that time. "When the Reads went Newfoundland, Mrs. Read" found utter apathy as to rescue work, in fact the people were rather indignant at the idea that any such thing was needed there at a home. She wrote to the press, rather to arouse interest in the movement, and make the people recognize the fact of the need of such a home. She wrote to the press, relative to this, the following letter: "Editor" Evening Herald.

Dear Sir:—For a long time Christian workers and those who are in a position to know the real condition of some parts of the City have felt the great need of some institution or shelter for unfortunate women. Last week one of the City's prominent Ministers drew the attention of his congregation to the fact that there was no institution in St. John's to find a refuge for any prisoner after being discharged from the Penitentiary and cited the instance of one poor woman who walked the streets because, having been in jail, no one would open a door welcome to her. Finally she found refuge in the Fire Hall until morning. The Army officers are constantly besieged by poor girls for help and opportunity of leaving old companions and doing right.

PRESS TAKES INTEREST.

The Rescue Work began to be talked of and the press requested an interview. They spoke of Mrs. Read as the "energetic and courageous woman who was at the head of the Army work in that country. A tall lady of rather pale countenance, with dark, earnest eyes, and looking straight at one under a mass of raven hair." "Our work is quite undenominational," she said to the reporter. The police would not give us any information, but we found out the truth for ourselves without their aid and twenty cases are now being traced." When asked how, she explained thus: you see we have homes not institutions. That is why they succeed whereas others fail and besides the workers keep the inmates with them for six months, first directing the attention to real spiritual things and next teaching them to fill some honest and honourable position in the world."

Although handicapped for want of room and funds devoted officers have steadily gone on seeking to help their fallen sisters and the Rescue Home on Cox Street has been the starting point for many an erring girl toward a better life. The new Maternity Hospital now in the course of erection will greatly facilitate this work, and it is hoped that the opening of this institution will not be long delayed. The men's social work in Newfoundland is confined to the Hotel Metropole on George Street where a great deal of good is accomplished, and many of those who are down and out are helped to meals and lodgings free of cost, while those of limited means can get decent lodgings at a very small figure. Here as in other branches of the S.A. work much more could be done if funds were available and those of our public spirited citizens who have money to spare for charitable purposes can be sure that anything given to these institutions will not be misplaced.

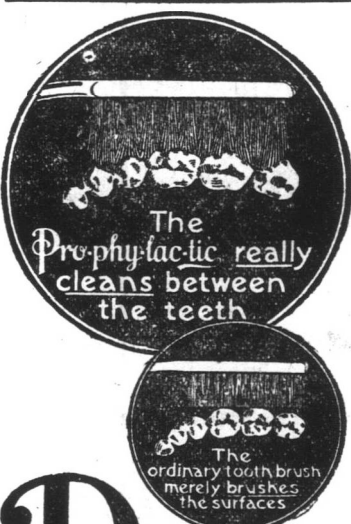
STEADY PROGRESS MADE.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the Army has made steady progress in all its branches and by faithful and diligent service has made itself a force to be reckoned with. Beginning with the humble efforts of a frail woman, it very soon rose to the status of (what is known in Army parlance as) a district a little later becoming a division, then a province, and latterly it has been raised to the dignity of a sub-Territory. Thus has the great work of the Army been upheld and continued to its present status, and devoted men and women throughout all those years, have been instrumental in fostering and cherishing the good work. The names of many of the leading officers are still fresh in the memory of the public, all of whom have done good work; but we are pleased to be able to say that the present officer in charge, Colonel Thomas Martin, is beloved by his people, and is a worthy successor of those who introduced the Army, and brought it up to its present standing. Col. Martin has the entire confidence

and sympathy of his followers and the public generally, and we feel sure that the present convention will be worthy of him and the welcome that on Sunday next, will be accorded Commissioner and Mrs. Sowton will be worthy the Army and worthy the people of Newfoundland.

THE WAY WE THINK.

"Life is full of grief, and trouble," said the man who seldom grins; "every tribulation's double, every woe I meet is twice. And the sun is only shiny when we're suffering for shade, and the tears we shed are briny, when we should weep lemonade. Fierce the present, but I roar most when I think of days to come; everything is hind and foremost, everything is out of plumb." "If that is your way of thinking," I replied, "oh, man of care, it's no wonder you are sinking in the waters of despair. Life to me seems crisp and snappy and the world is not a frost; I'm determined to be happy, quite regardless of the cost. In this frame of mind I frolic, gay, though humble and obscure, while you have a mental colic that no acorn will cure. If you lack a grief you take it, for the sorriest grapes you reach; life's exactly what we make it, it's a lemon or a peach. If a man is hunting sorrow he can load it on a tray, and he'll find a lot to-morrow that he overlooks today. If a man is always seeking for the good things and the bright, he will see his sorrows streaking for some cavern out of sight. With your bosom full of sadness and your whiskers wet with tears you can't hope to catch the gladness in this best of whirling spheres."



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After four weeks application will be made to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council for Letters Patent for "improvements" in or relating to air tubes for "pneumatic tyres," to be granted to Thomas Baker McLeroth, of Eastburn, The Crescent, Hildesley Wood, in the County of Middlesex, a British Subject.

St. John's this 8th day of August, 1922.
MCGRATH & MCGRATH,
Solicitors for applicant.

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