

Our Montreal Letter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

THE GOOD WORK OF THE MONTREAL SAILORS' INSTITUTE.

The 61st annual report of the Montreal Sailors' Institute shows its keynote to be, "Upwards and Onwards" in the cause of Jack-at-sea and Jack ashore. The report says in part, in a poem by Henry Bay Dyke are the following lines:—

"A friend in need," my neighbour said to me— A friend indeed I mean to be; In time of trouble I will come to you, And in the hour of need you'll find me true."

I thought a bit, and took him by the hand. "My friend," I said, "you do not understand— The inner meaning of that simple rhyme— A friend is what the heart needs all the time."

A friend at all times. That is what the Sailors' Institute endeavors to be to the sailor. Not only in adversity, but in prosperity.

A printed report of such a work as this is entirely inadequate to convey to the friends of the sailor any real idea of the work that is being carried on in their behalf. Here are some facts, however:—

Its doors are open from 9 in the morning daily until 10, except on Concert night, and then it is more open 11 and sometimes later before the day is done.

The building, which is conveniently situated almost in the centre of the Harbor front, is furnished attractively. On the reading rooms' tables are found the Montreal daily papers, the weekly papers from the leading seaport cities of the Old Land, the current magazines and shipping papers, including the New York Maritime Register. Our library is being constantly added to, with new books, which, with much other reading matter, have been sent in to the Institute by the many friends of the sailor.

The various game rooms are furnished with billiards (7 tables), solitaire, checkers or draughts, dominoes, quitta and other games with which the men of the sea pass many a pleasant hour.

Every facility for writing letters, and every encouragement is given to the men to keep in touch with their friends through correspondence. Everyone loves to receive a letter, especially if it is away from home, and we try to make the men realize that the surest way to get a letter is to write for one. Thousands of letters have been written at our writing tables which have gone forward to cheer the hearts of the recipients in the home land.

Tuesday night in concert night. A happy crowd gathers every week to enjoy it. The average attendance of seamen has been 646, and of other citizens, 852. Many times during the season the Concert Hall has been packed to capacity (1,200), and frequently we are unable to accommodate the multitudes that come.

One of the best meetings of the week is the Temperance Tea Party, which is held on Saturday night. The ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union have had charge of this meeting for many years. We sit down to a social cup of tea at 7.45, and this is followed by a brief programme of music, etc., then an address. One of the results of these meetings is that 325 of the sailors have taken the total abstinence pledge during the season. In this connection we must express to the ladies who have thus assisted us in these meetings the deep appreciation of the Board of Management for splendid services thus rendered to the men of the sea.

This work for the past 12 years has been in charge of Mrs. Norman Morrison who, unfortunately for us, has been called from us by death. She will be missed by hosts of friends made during these many years.

Mrs. Morrison was for 12 years superintendent of temperance work among sailors carried on in Hochelais County by the Women's Temperance Union, and was specially fitted for the work. Being the daughter of a sea captain, she was well acquainted with the sailor's life and his surroundings, and, having accepted the position in the W.C.T.U. work, she was faithful to all its duties, or, as she called them, its privileges.

Mrs. Morrison will long be remembered by the sailors who have visited the port of Montreal during these past 12 years. We will hope that the memory of her good advice and her active personality may ever lead them to follow after that which is good.

These meetings continue during the season, except during the special hot months of July and August. Religious services are held upon the Sabbath in the morning and evening, and also on Monday and Tuesday evenings. We recognize that the Institute was organized, not simply to benefit the sailor socially and materially, but as the by-laws declare, "to afford them instruction and religious services on the Sabbath days and at such other time as the Board of Management may determine." Indeed, if we mistake not, this was the main object in the minds of those religious gentlemen who organized this work sixty-two years ago.

These meetings are of the simplest and of an entirely noncontroversial character, and, we believe, are thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend. Here are a few figures which may help to convey some further idea of the work:—

The daily average attendance of seamen has been about 300
88 religious services were held with an aggregate attendance of 1,849
20 temperance socials were held with an aggregate attendance of 1,440
25 concerts were held with an aggregate attendance of 22,700
Money exchanged amounted to \$19,850
Money deposited for safe-keeping \$9,150
Money remitted through drafts or P. O. Order \$4,055
Postage stamps sold \$1,100
Total abstinence pledges taken 300

The total receipts amounted to \$18,846.53 including \$4,696.04 from subscriptions and donations \$3,483.87; receipts from steamship collections and \$1,233.90 from weekly concerts. The expenditure reached \$19,708.58, of which the heating, lighting, City Assessments, water rates, etc., took \$5,760.56, and salaries and wages account \$7,647.27, leaving a deficit of \$711.66. Eight seamen died during the season, and were buried in the Sailors' Lot at Mount Royal Cemetery at the expense of the Institute. The manager of the Sailors Institute is J. Richie Bell, the man of "the willing heart." I met Mr. Bell for the first time in August, when I visited the C.P.R. and White Star-Dominion Lines of steamers in company with Mr. Thos. Foy, the veteran assistant manager of the Catholic Sailors' Club. The very noticeable feature of the good work for the sailors, is the hearty co-operation of both the Sailors' Institute and the Catholic Sailors' Club in all things pertaining not only to their temporal interests, but also to their spiritual. At the annual meeting.

Dr. W. H. Atherton, Manager of the Catholic Sailors' Club, spoke of his recent visit to Europe, where he took occasion to visit all the sailors welfare institutions wherever he went, and wished to compliment the Board of Management of the Sailors' Institute, which was doing a work second to none in the world. He thanked the Sailors' Club for doing the pioneer work among the sailors in this port, and stated that the Catholic Sailors' Club was ready to follow them in all that tended to the betterment of the lot of the sailors. A few evenings ago, I visited the Sailors' Institute for the first time to assist at one of the weekly concerts. There were two concerts in one. It was a great night, and a great crowd assisted. Some fifteen hundred being present. It was some crowd, every available seat was occupied, while the throng stood six deep in the back of the hall, and the stairs leading to the big gallery, which extends all around the hall, could hold no more. Owing to the crowded condition of the place, a large number had to be re-

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MUTT AND JEFF



KEY CHAINS SHOULD BE BARRED AT ARDSLEY COUNTRY CLUB.

A few days ago as Lady Roddick was proceeding along Cedar Ave., on the higher levels, she had a narrow escape from being killed by an automobile. The driver had lost control of the machine, and it swerved on to

the sidewalk. Lady Roddick had just time to jump aside, reacting a small elevation which saved her. Had there been a fence at the spot where the automobile headed, she would have been crushed to death. She received quite a shock, but after a little time she was able to reach her residence. The driver of the machine received quite a fright also, and was glad to learn that Lady Roddick was none the worse for her experience. "All's well that ends well."

SWEPT TO DEATH IN A STORM.
While Lake St. Louis was a seething mass of white caps with the wind blowing like a gale, two men were out in a yawl in the storm. Suddenly one was drowned, and the other was left adrift in the boiling lake until members of the St. Lawrence Yacht Club rescued him. No one will ever know just how the accident happened, as at the time, one had the tiller and did not see his friend fall overboard, but heard the splash and saw him disappear.

DROWNED IN THE LACHINE CANAL.
George Lashford, Chief engineer of the steamer "City of Hamilton" was drowned in the Lachine Canal at Black's Bridge. The engineer was jumping off the canal as the steamer was being moored in dock No. 1 and miscalculated the distance between the steamer and the edge of the Canal. The body was brought to the morgue. In Lashford's pockets was \$214.15, a gold watch and chain and he wore a gold ring. The man was 37 years of age and lived at Collin's Bay, Ont.

COLD WEATHER FOR OCTOBER.
"O, it's cold," is heard on all sides, and certainly it is exceptionally cold for October. It will not be surprising to see a fall of snow come one of these days if the cold spell keeps up. Furnaces are going full blast in houses, offices, hotels and churches. It was funny to see "the rooters" for the McGill rugby team, returning from the game with Queen's University of Kingston, Ont., carrying wraps, rugs, blankets, pillows, heavy sweaters and overcoats. Yes, it was cold in the big stadium, and colder

KENNEDY'S DRUG STORE.