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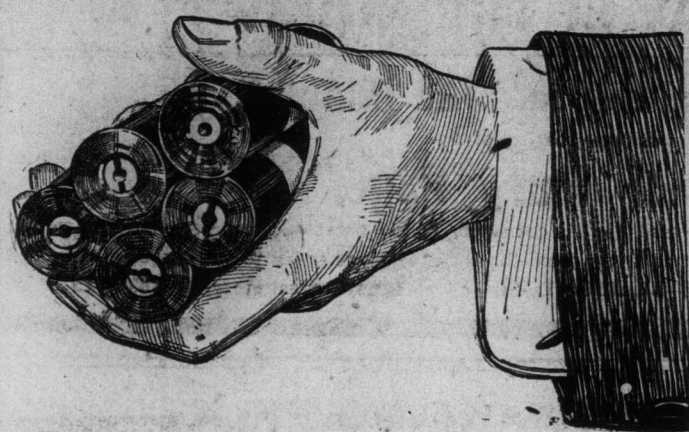
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Opening of "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Club."

The Ladies' Committee yesterday afternoon handed over the Club Rooms for the Royal Naval Reservists and the men of the Newfoundland Regiment, completely equipped and furnished.

The style of the furnishing is Mission. Here and there scarlet is introduced and the effect is striking and appropriate. Grouped over the platform are the White Ensign and Union Jack with the Royal Arms in the centre. The latest electric lights have been installed, lighting up the Hall beautifully. The general arrangement was greatly admired by those present and it was thought it would give much pleasure to those for whom it has been provided.

Among those present were: Capt. Abraham, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Ayre, Hon. J. R. Bennett, M.H.A., Acting Premier, and Mrs. Bennett, H. R. Brookes, Mrs. John Browning, Mrs. W. J. Hervey, Mrs. Dr. Charter (H.M.S. Triton), Mrs. J. C. Davidson, Matron Girls' Department, R. E. S. and Miss Dunfield, Mr. and Miss Ethel Dickenson, Capt. Allan Goodridge, A.D.C., Mr. W. G. Gosling, Mayor of St. John's, and Mrs. Charles MacKenzie Harvey and Miss Dorothy Harvey, Chief Justice Sir William Horwood and Lady Horwood, Hon. John Harvey, M.L.C., Justice Johnson, Mr. W. H. Jones (Superintendent of the Institute), Mrs. and Miss Jones, Mr. R. B. Job, President of the Board of Trade, and Mrs. Job, Mr. H. W. LeMessurier, C.M.G., Mrs. and Miss LeMessurier, Commander MacDermott, H.M.S. Triton, and Mrs. MacDermott, Mrs. Dr. Macpherson, Mrs. Archibald Macpherson, Major Montgomery, Adjutant, Nfld. Regiment, Mr. J. S. and Mrs. Munn, Sir Joseph and Lady Outerbridge, Mrs. Norman Outerbridge, Mrs. Herbert Outerbridge, Surgeon-Major and Mrs. Paterson, Mr. Sheard, Secretary and General Manager, International Grenfell Association, Hon. Robert Watson, and the representatives of the Press. Sir William Horwood took the chair.

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before these clubs were formed, and can appreciate how much they have done, and will do, for the successive generations who will use them. Now, these men who have come from distant parts of the Island to enlist here as Volunteers or Naval Reservists no doubt feel that the conditions are somewhat strange to them, and they, I think, will fully appreciate what is being done by the ladies and the Institute in the formation of this Club House. From the St. John's point of view nothing gives such unalloyed pleasure to us as to show that we are not lacking in appreciation for those who have come forward in this great crisis, among whom are the best of Newfoundland, to battle for civilization, freedom and moral rights, and for defence of home, liberty and the maintenance of all our ideals and standards, and we are proud that Newfoundland has upheld the honour of the Empire, and we justly feel that nothing is too good for the men of both services.

"I trust that both branches of the service will regard the Club as their own, and be in full possession. I do not wish it a long career, but I wish it a successful one, that it will be fully used and fully enjoyed by both branches of the service—the Volunteers and Royal Naval Reservists."

Hon. Robert Watson, Chairman of the Institute Committee:—Sir William Horwood, Ladies and Gentlemen:—"As Chairman of the governing body of the Institute here, it is my privilege to hand over these rooms—the Grenfell Hall, the writing room and the gymnasium, to be used as a Club for our Soldiers and Sailors. The Chairman has told you of the remarkable work done by the ladies who set out to found the Club, and I know we are all glad their efforts have been successful, and the whole country will be very grateful to them for their splendid work.

To Dr. Grenfell and those who helping him it will be assurance of gratitude to know that the Institute will continue to be a home, for after all a club is a home, for the men of this Colony who have responded to the call of King and Country, and who are now in training to join their brothers on the other side. Like yourself, Mr. Chairman, I think it fortunate that this Institute, the patron of which is His Majesty the King, should contain the club rooms of the men of this ancient Colony who are forming part of His Majesty's forces by sea and land.

I would suggest, Sir, to Commander MacDermott and Major Montgomery, that they select a provisional committee of six men, three from the Royal Naval Reserve and three from the Newfoundland Regiment, to take over the rooms and assume charge until the Club is properly organized and its Committee selected.

Sir William, I have much pleasure on behalf of the Committee in handing over the rooms, and my colleagues and I, Sir, wish the Club every success; and I can assure the Committee that anything the Institute Committee can do to assist in this work will be gladly done."

Miss Ethel Dickenson, on Behalf of the Ladies' Committee:—Sir William, Ladies and Gentlemen:—"I do not know why I have been selected to act as the representative of the Ladies' Committee, except as a penalty for being absent from the last meeting, but I am sure I voice the feelings of the Committee when I say that whatever we have done has been nothing but a pleasure. We can do little enough for our brave soldiers and sailors who are fighting our battles for us and giving us our liberty. We also feel that the ladies should not take all the credit; we have had great help from Mr. Sheard and Mr. Jones, and the management of the Institute, and we should like to thank them, and also those who have assisted us with their subscriptions, without which we could have done nothing. I have great pleasure in handing over the furnishings and equipment of the room to the Soldiers and Sailors, and I hope they will enjoy to the fullest extent the rooms now placed at their disposal."

Commander MacDermott:—Sir William, Ladies and Gentlemen:—"Before taking over the Club Rooms with Major Montgomery, I should like, on behalf of the men of the Royal Naval Reserve to express our thanks to the ladies whose devoted work has made it possible to establish this Club. I should like to thank Mr. Sheard and Mr. Jones for their valuable help and co-operation, without which we should not have been able to have the Club so soon."

Major Montgomery:—"Sir William, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think all that is necessary is for me to re-echo Capt. MacDermott's words.

"I have been asked by my officers to apologize, or rather explain their absence. There are only a few officers (and I was selected as the one with least to do to come) and there is a large body of men to do for and to train, and it was impossible for them to come here to-day.

"I wish to thank the ladies who have taken this matter in hand, and I congratulate them upon the way in which they have carried it out for the benefit of the men of the Royal Navy and Nfld. Regiment. Some incidents have

been stated in the press which would lead one to think the volunteers were a very rough crowd of men, and I wish to say that with the small body of officers we have it would be practically impossible to handle the work here were it not for the splendid control the men show and the way they look after themselves. I think I am correct, in saying that there are none so easy to handle as the men here. They will take in hand the affairs of the Club in a manner which will win the approval of all."

Captain MacDermott then nominated Petty Officer Ware, Petty Officer Macklin and Leading Seaman Murray to act on the "Provisional Committee" as the representatives of the Royal Naval Reserve.

Major Montgomery called on Sgt. Major Moore to nominate three to represent the Nfld. Regiment, viz., Sgt. McHenry, Lance Corporal Balsam and Lance Corporal Tessier.

Hon. J. R. Bennett, Acting Premier of Newfoundland:—Sir William, Ladies and Gentlemen:—"It is my pleasant duty in the absence of the Premier, to propose a vote of thanks to the Ladies' Committee for the good work displayed in forming this Club. A great many people at the time it was proposed raised doubts as to the practicability of forming a Club in sufficient time to be of use to the men, but as usual when the ladies of St. John's take anything in hand, they let nothing stand in their way. I think this is demonstrated in a very remarkable way this afternoon. I am sure we all appreciate and admire those who have come forward to fight the battles of the Empire, and we all send them our best wishes, blessing, and prayers for their safety, but I think this great conflict in which we are engaged would be a very, very sorry one indeed without the great assistance displayed by the women of the Empire. Women are working in all parts of the Empire—on the battlefield, in the hospitals, and I am glad to say we have women from Newfoundland, as well as men, doing their part in this great battle for home and ideals. I think, Mr. Chairman, the ladies of this sub-committee of the Women's Patriotic Association of Newfoundland, who have been instrumental in forming and bringing to a successful conclusion this Club, have earned the gratitude of the whole country. It is a pleasure to propose a vote of thanks, not only from this audience, but from the people of Newfoundland to the ladies who are looking after the welfare of those men who have come forward so nobly to do battle for their King and Country. It must be a source of comfort to the mothers sitting in their homes far away to know that the ladies of St. John's are taking such an interest in the volunteers and Naval Reservists who come here, and to know there is a safeguard against temptations. I hope they will come in such numbers as will gladden the hearts of the ladies who have founded the Club. I cannot close without paying a tribute to Dr. Grenfell, who founded this Institution and placed it here. Since it has sprung up it has always stepped into a breach which no other outside place could fill, and this is one more instance of its usefulness.

"I wish therefore, to propose a vote of thanks to the Ladies' Committee, not from the audience, but on behalf of the people of Newfoundland."

W. Baine Grieve, Esq.:—"I need say very little in seconding this vote of thanks. Those who have undertaken this Club have done a great deal for the soldiers and sailors who are protecting us. It evidences to them that our interest is not confined to sending them abroad and giving them a trifling subscription to this or that object. I would just like to thank Captain MacDermott and Major Montgomery for the very excellent speeches they have just made on behalf of the two branches of the service.

"I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks which was proposed by the Colonial Secretary and Acting Premier."

The vote of thanks to the Ladies' Committee for the great work done in establishing the Club was carried with acclamation.

W. G. Gosling, Esq., Mayor of St. John's:—"It falls to me to ask you to pass a vote of thanks to Sir William Horwood, the Chairman, for the very excellent manner in which he presided at the meeting. I am sure we all appreciate the work done by the ladies, and wish the future of these really charming club rooms every success. It will be enjoyed very much by our men who are volunteering to do an active service for the defence of their country.

"I have very great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Sir William Horwood."

Seconded by Mr. R. B. J. Job and carried.

Sir William Horwood expressed appreciation of the vote of thanks, and said:—"We have now a Club, to found which would have cost thousands of dollars if this Institution had not been placed at the disposal of the men. We appreciate the very great endeavours of the management of the Institute, of which we must feel justly proud."

"God Save the King" was sung, then



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