

# H. R. H. The Duke of Connaught's Visit.—Thirty-Eight Different Photos.

THE LANDING AND THE READING OF THE ADDRESS AT THE KING'S WHARF.  
 THE OPENING OF THE GIRLS' WING OF THE KING GEORGE V. SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE, GROUP IN GRENFELL HALL,  
 THE REVIEW AT ST. GEORGE'S FIELD, SHOWING PRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT OFFICERS.  
 THE OPENING OF BOWRING PARK. THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE SANITARIUM.  
 THE INSPECTION OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE GROUNDS.

Phone 768.

THE HOLLOWAY STUDIO, LIMITED,

Corner Bates' Hill and Henry Street, St. John's, Nfld

## REPORT

### Of the Executive Committee of the Marine Disaster Fund, 1914.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen,  
 At a meeting of the General Committee appointed by His Excellency the Administrator, held in the Board of Trade Rooms on Thursday, April 23rd, an Executive Committee was appointed to carry out the resolutions adopted at a meeting of citizens held on the previous Tuesday in the Court House. These resolutions in brief were:

- 1.—To establish a Relief Fund for the sufferers from the disasters at the sea.
- 2.—To arrange for its collection and distribution.
- 3.—To establish a Permanent Fund for the relief of the sufferers from Marine Disasters.

In conformity with these instructions the Committee has been actively engaged during the past four months, and, although its work is by no means finalized, and must continue for many years, it is now in a position to report progress.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Board of Trade Rooms on Good Friday, April 10th. Thereafter meetings were held frequently, the sessions averaging from one to three hours.

The officers of the Executive Committee appointed by the General Committee, were: Hon. John Harris, President, and Hon. R. Watson, Secretary. It became apparent from the start that for one man to hold the double office of Secretary and Treasurer would prove too heavy a burden, and at the request of the Committee Mr. Robinson consented to act as Secretary, until such time as the General Committee met, in which body the official appointment vested.

The tragedy at the Northern fields covered the loss of 78 members of the crew of the S. S. Newfoundland, one other succumbing to his injuries whilst in the Hospital.

The Southern Cross with 174 aboard was lost in the vicinity of St. Mary's Bay, probably during the same storm. Two other fatalities, which occurred at the testfields last spring, were taken into consideration, bringing the total death roll up to 255.

Enquiries as to the dependencies of those lost were at once instituted. When the citizens' meeting was held in the Court House, the Newfoundland Disaster was the one under discussion. There were rumors as to the loss of the Southern Cross, but only rumors. The second, and from the standpoint of numbers more terrible tragedy, loomed dimly in the distance, but for many days the Committee was handicapped in making investigation, because of its unwillingness to abandon the hope to which so many with touching persistency clung for many long weeks. Indeed, when enquiries were first made as to the families of those of the Southern Cross, it had to be done with great caution to avoid giving pain to those who believed that

there was always 'hope from the sea.'

The work of investigation has been conducted through stipendiary magistrates, clergymen, and in one or two cases the Justices of the Peace, and members of the Constabulary. Of their ready, kindly and invaluable assistance it is impossible to speak other than in terms of gratitude and praise.

The subscription lists remained open for two months, or until June 15. They were then formally closed, but even now a few amounts are outstanding. That a work of this magnitude could not be finalized under several months was evident from the start, and that it would take many weeks if not months, before the full facts could be ascertained, was equally evident. In order, however, to avoid anything in the shape of destitution or unnecessary suffering, immediate steps were taken. Advances were sent to those districts most in need to meet temporary emergencies, to be adjusted when the allocations were finalized. Later these temporary grants were evened up so that the sum of \$25 should be received by every family in need of it, the sum of about \$5,500 being thus distributed through the clergymen or magistrates.

The difficulties of investigation were greatly added to by the fact that many men had sailed under other names, whilst some on the ships' rolls were found alive and well, but unable to state to whom they had given their tickets. As a matter of fact it was not until the beginning of the present month that the last member of the Southern Cross's crew was actually identified. Some were registered under incorrect Christian names, and others were entered from places far remote from their real homes. There was one case where a careful search had to be made in half a dozen places bearing the same name, the family, a widow and several children, being discovered through a clergyman in the last named place enquired of, who had heard of them as residing at a nearby settlement of a wholly different name.

But these were minor difficulties. The first problem to be solved was who on the list had sailed, and who had not. The results showed that fourteen of the 173 on the Southern Cross had sailed under the names of others. This practice of the disposal by sale or otherwise of tickets has long prevailed, those procuring them sailing under the name of the original owner, a custom which in the opinion of the Committee, may at any time cause serious and otherwise avoidable trouble. In addition to the 173 of the Southern Cross crew was one young lad, a stowaway. The crew of the Newfoundland was more easily identified, only one case of substitution having occurred.

The members of the Executive Committee most of whom have had considerable experience in connection with similar, if smaller Funds, have based their methods and scale of payments on lines similar to those adopted in the Greenland, Regulus, Erna and other cases, although the public generosity has enabled them to act with greater liberality.

The plan adopted is as follows:—  
 (1) To aged or infirm widows or parents, and in a few instances to other relations who were wholly dependent upon the deceased, life annuities of \$50 have been granted.

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An outstanding feature in the disasters is the youth of those who have been lost; many of them being under the age of 21, some as young as 16. Several of these young men were married, as the 95 widows indicate, many of whom are girls from 18 to 23, whilst their children are very small, and must remain beneficiaries for from 14 to 16 years. As a matter of fact, about 80 are under 2 years of age, whilst the number of posthumous children will be over twelve.

The average ages of the children of those lost are: Sons, 5½ years; Daughters 6¼ years.

The average ages of the brothers and sisters placed on the children's lists are: Brothers, 7 1-3 years; Sisters, 9 2-3 years.

The average ages of all the children who are beneficiaries are: Boys, 6 2-3 years; Girls, nearly 7 years; thus leaving an average period of payments of 8 years for boys, and 9 years for girls.

In some cases widows are left with four, five and six children under 15 years of age, but these are not necessarily the hardest cases. The lads and lassies will grow up and in time be able to render assistance. It is where whole families have been cut off, and where the solitary is set in homes once comfortable and provided for, that the most difficult problems are found. The Committee recognizes that in such cases exceptional treatment must be accorded. The aim

throughout is to help those most whose needs are greatest, but not to remove from the shoulders of those whose duty and privilege it is to support their parents in their old age, the responsibility for so doing. The Committee interprets the gifts of the public as the expression of a desire to substitute so far as money can do so, that assistance and support that would have been gladly rendered by the husband, son or brother, had he not been cut off.

In Elliston one family mourns a father and a son.

In Little Catalina, two sons, a brother and a nephew, have been called from one family.

Of an aged pair in Foxtrap the sad story reads:—"Their three sons were lost in the Southern Cross. Their only other son was killed on the train four years ago."

Another family of the same name, in the same place, lost two sons, cousins of the former, both leaving widows.

At Clarke's Beach, two young men have been called from the one family, leaving a sickly father to support five children between 3 and 15 years of age.

In Harbor Grace is a widow of 31 with six children, the oldest of whom is 12, and the youngest not one year. In Tilton was a family of six. The father, a widower, and the brother aged 23, have been taken.

The foregoing are individual instances, but the record of almost every case, is a record of sorrow, and of loss, whose poignancy may be lessened, but the sadness of which must remain so long as memory lasts.

The number of beneficiaries is as follows:—

St. John's	88
Petty Harbor	12
Pouch Cove, Outer Cove and Torbay	25
Carbonear, Freshwater, and Perry's Cove	44
Kelligrews, Foxtrap, Seal Cove, and Long Pond	65
Harbor Grace	49
Spaniard's Bay and Tilton	44
Topsail, Chamberlain's, Mannels and Paradise	31
Upper Island Cove and Bryan's Cove	40
Conception Harbor and Colliers	32
New Perlican	9
North River and vicinity	10
Bonavista and Newman's Cove	45
Catalina and Little Catalina	27
Brigus and Cupids	43
Greenpond and vicinity	34
St. Vincent's, P. B.	22
Newtown, Wesleyville and Cat Harbor	16
Doting Cove	14
Elsewhere	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>

Nowhere has the blow fallen with greater severity than in the Roy Canon Colley's parish, a loss which the adjacent parish of the Rev. J. G. Netten has fully shared. There are to-day between Paradise and Seal Cove 37 vacant chairs, and 114 beneficiaries of the Fund.

To meet the grants to the 721 beneficiaries about \$200,000 will be required. Where life pensions have

been granted the expectation of life columns have been consulted. The total number of annual grants are as follows:—

<b>ADULTS.</b>	
Widows	537
Parents	1360
Others	176
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>
<b>CHILDREN.</b>	
Sons	1080
Daughters	875
Brothers	507
Sisters	551
Others	137
<b>Total</b>	<b>3150</b>

\$198,150

To meet the demands which must arise at the ex-

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**Regatta, 1914.**

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Cigarettes by the thousand at factory list price.		<b>Fancy Syrups for Ices.</b>
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