

POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1923

APPEALING TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA

Halifax Seamen's Institute
Wants \$150,000—Sam
Harris Endorses.

President Sam Harris of the Navy League has sent out a letter endorsing an appeal to the people of Canada to subscribe \$150,000 to put the Halifax Seamen's Institute in a position to operate free of debt. By reason of business depression, he says, the Institute cannot finance itself and, falling assistance, is liable to be closed up.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Nova Scotia Division of the Navy League of Canada, held on 28th July, 1923, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—
"That, in view of the imminent closing of the Institute at Halifax, due to financial troubles and inadequate support by the general public, an earnest appeal is hereby made to the people of Canada for sufficient funds to meet all current liabilities, and enable the Institute to again operate and renew its activities in aid of seafaring men, and objects connected with them and their work. These activities have been on a very generous scale in relief of cases of need and distress of the sailor, and in alleviation of the hardships incident to his calling. Failing such support, the closing of the Institute is inevitable. Every effort has been made by the Local Council to carry on, but a point has now been reached where a liberal measure of financial assistance is absolutely necessary."

In endorsing this appeal President Sam Harris writes:—
"When the British Empire was threatened by disruption in 1914, through the action of Germany, the first to respond for defence of the Empire were the men of the Navy and the Merchant Service. The great work they did in carrying supplies and men, and keeping the seas free was appreciated by the general public, who showed their appreciation by subscribing generously for the men of the sea. This

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money was applied to look after the widows and orphans of the men of the Merchant Service, who laid down their lives for Empire security, and when we realize that many of these men were not killed until the ships they were on were torpedoed several times, we can readily see that the money subscribed then was only a slight return for the services rendered and sacrifice made.

Part of the money, after making allowance for pension claims, was set aside to assist or build homes in the different ports of Canada, where their men of the sea who are always transient and cannot possibly provide a home for themselves, may be made comfortable while in port.

"Quite recently, a retired sea captain declared that seamen were virtually prisoners when at sea. They were enclosed within walls of steel, and living and sleeping within their workshop, among their tools and machinery for weeks and months, with no possibility of visiting places of amusement for relief from the monotony of their existence."

"About 160,000 seamen are cared for annually in our Atlantic ports alone. In these homes we furnish, at cost, food and lodging, but if the sailor has nothing it is free. In addition, comfortable rooms are open, social entertainments and religious service is provided. Sailors' money received for safe-keeping and sent home, and his mail handled. In fact, nothing is omitted which experience proves is of permanent benefit to the men, and these homes take the place of the former cheap boarding houses and dens, and positively run out of business the hordes and scoundrels who once preyed upon the sailor and brought ruin to seamen—spiritually, physically, mentally and morally. All this is done by voluntary contributions received."

"Throughout the world, all Sailors' Homes are provided for in the same voluntary manner, because it is felt by all that the sailor is a national asset. Admiral Earl Beatty declares: 'The life of the Empire is dependent on the sailor.' The greatest of these in Canada is the Memorial Home to the men who will never come back, erected in the City of Halifax. Into the Port of Halifax alone there cleared outward and inward, last year, 5,224 ships, carrying 111,000 men."

"Many of the above vessels made several visits, and it was found that

when a man had experienced comfort and the friendly atmosphere of the Home he never failed to return to it as soon as his vessel arrived in port. Fifty thousand meals have been supplied to sailors in distress, 21,000 men have used the beds, and 105,000 men have made use of the building."

"The Navy League also looks after the seamen, who, through no fault of their own, are penniless, frequently, when their ship is lost, all the man possesses goes down with it, and during the war there were hundreds of these cases. The letter, as under, tells its own tale, but is only one of many received:—

"November 30, 1922.
"Sam Harris, Esq., Navy League,
Toronto, Ont.
"Sir,—I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me if I am entitled to any recompense

for what I suffered and I am still suffering from the effects of the war. I joined the S. S. Robson on the 8th of November, 1917, at Sydney, C. B., in Canada, and went across in convoy H. H. S. Corcoran, conveying the 33 ships to Spit Head, and from there to Dunkirk in France. On the morning of the 27th of November, 1917, about 8 o'clock my vessel was struck by a 17-inch shell on the forecastle head. I sustained a broken shoulder, and I am not able to do anything. Then again on the 3rd day of February, I lost my eye by being struck by splinters from the iron deck during a bombing raid. I am at the present time in a starving condition. I cannot find any ship, and I am staying with a man getting no wages, and I am almost naked—nothing to keep me warm when the cold weather comes but my overcoat.
"If you can do anything to help me



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out I shall esteem it a favor, for God knows I am in need—not a friend, not a penny. I do not know which way to turn when I leave this place. Please reply as soon as you can, for I do not know when I shall be told to take the road.

"Believe me, Dear Sir,
"Yours sincerely,
"Eight bells and all's well. Good night!"

"Such men gave their whole earning power that the Empire might exist and that our liberty may be secure. There is no Government allowance for these men, and were it not for the Navy League they would be without hope and subjects of charity."

FARM FOR ORPHANS.

A farm colony for dependent orphans on the outskirts of the city was strongly advocated by Mr. Justice Hodgins of Toronto this week at the 72nd annual meeting of the Protestant Orphans' Home. The decreasing number of children in the institution pointed to the advisability of such a course. Dr. C. J. O. Hastings heartily endorsed this idea, suggesting that the different institutions be grouped together under one administration, reducing the overhead expenses.

DISCUSS MISSIONARY WORK.

The W. M. S. of the Coburg street Christian church held its regular meeting last night at the home of Mrs. E. N. Stockford, 71 High street. Mrs. George A. Horton, the president, was in the chair and led the opening devotional exercises. Missionary work in India formed the subject of the programme. Papers were given by Mrs. W. J. Johnson and Mrs. Blanche Sprague. Plans for the activities of the winter were outlined and one new member was welcomed. The prospects for a successful season were reported. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Stockford served refreshments.

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			Final Dividend
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			Face Value of Policy
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Balance to Policyholder	426.94		
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This Policyholder received \$426.94 MORE than he paid in

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