

The Liverpool Mercury Friday March 30th 1900

Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage.

Interesting Gathering.

The 31st annual meeting of the many friends and liberal supporters of the Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution, which has done so much good work in caring for "Jack's" orphans, took place yesterday in the large ballroom of the Town Hall.

More eloquent even than the speeches was the presence of about 310 orphans, whose march through the thoroughfares, headed by the excellent band of the institution, elicited universal admiration, the healthy appearance of the boys and girls being especially noted.

Over the meeting the Lord Mayor (Mr. L. S. Cohen). who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Miss Cohen, presided and there were also present Sir W.B. Forwood (president of the Institution), Mr E. A. Beazley (honorary treasurer), Captain Stubbs (honorary secretary), Captains Parnell, Foster, Low, Langlands, Cruickshanks, Burgess, and Glasson, the Ven. Archdeacon Madden, the Revs.R. B. Tollinton (chaplain of the institution), C. C. Monck, and W. Fryer, Messrs. J. H. Beazley. C. J. Bushell, C. G. Rowe, James Lister, J. Rankin, J. Williamson, J Gillison, W. McVicar, G. H. Ball, E. D. White, A. Kerr, O. Stanhope, G. O'Kell, W. Halsall, J. Hemner, E. Thompson, W. T. Marsden, and Pilots M. W. Roberts and H. J. Evans (No. 2 boat).

The annual report stated that the committee acknowledged with gratitude the success which had attended the work of the Orphanage during the past year. During that period 53 boys and 22 girls were admitted; while 44 boys and 23 girls passed out into the duties of active life. The number of children in the Orphanage on December 31st was 321.

In the course of the past year 51 boys and 66 girls had been placed on the outdoor list. The total number of children who had received out-door help during the year was 508. This part of the charity's work, while naturally attracting less notice than the training of children within the institution, continued to be thoroughly effective.

The education grant earned amounted to £320 13s. 9d., the educational standard of the school being thoroughly well maintained. The girl's school had also been placed under the supervision of the Education Department since July 1, and had earned in the three remaining months of the school year a grant of £11 10s. The best thanks of all friends of the Orphanage were due to the members of the ladies committee.

The Committee recorded with deep regret the death of their colleague, Mr T. H. Ismay, and were glad to add that, **Mr. Bruce Ismay** had consented to take his father's place upon the general committee. The sustained interest taken in the Orphanage by all classes and ranks of those who are upon the sea was again recognised.

The annual pilots' concert realised £165 for the Orphanage, whose needs did not diminish for this period of pressing claims on the public liberality.

The Lord Mayor, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed the extreme pleasure he felt in presiding over a meeting of an institution which so readily commanded the sympathy and cordial support of the whole community.

The Seamen's Orphanage Institution was well known in Liverpool, and the balance shown showed the important hold it had. It was quite understandable that this should be so in the first port of the empire, and the fact of Liverpool shipowners having done so remarkably well during the recent war would he was sure that in the mind of the treasurer, who would not lose his opportunity. They must not think that because they had at present a small balance on the right side it was always going to continue. (Hear, Hear)

The mothers of those on the outdoor list received 10s. a month, and some assistance in the way of clothing during the year, and it often happened that there were two or three children of the one family receiving this assistance. One expensive item in the balance sheet (£498. owing to an outbreak of diphtheria) was not likely to occur again, as this examination, although expensive, proved that the cause of the breakout of the illness had nothing to do with the drains at all, but must have been brought in by someone visiting the hospital.

He had asked the question as to what became of the boys when they left the school, and he was told that the mothers as a rule did not send their boys to sea. It, however seemed a pity that many of these boys should not join the navy or the mercantile marine, as the education and discipline they received at this admirable institution would go far to raise even these important bodies. (Applause.)

Sir W. B. Forwood, in seconding the motion, assured subscribers that the outdoor department of the orphanage was carried on under the strictest supervision by competent officers.

A considerable number of their supporters connected with shipping interests were being removed by death, and he appealed to the younger members of that trade to come forward and support an institution, whose basis was true patriotism. Their mercantile marine during the present war had been an object lesson to other nations, and by supporting this orphanage they would be training those who could be used either for offensive or defensive purposes, thus making largely for the peace of the country. (Applause.)- The motion was carried.

Archdeacon Madden moved - "That this meeting fully recognises the strong claims which the seamen's orphans have upon the ship-owners of Liverpool, as well as upon the community at large, and calls for more adequate provision for the large number of orphan children, whose applications continually come before the committee." The outdoor scheme tended to preserve and foster home life, which was the glory and the strength of England. - The motion seconded by Mr. J. H. Rankin, was carried.

On the motion of the Rev R. B. Tollinton. seconded by Mr. J. H. Beazley, the committee was reappointed, and a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor closed the proceedings. Badges, with portraits of several military leaders in South Africa, buns, and oranges were then distributed by Miss Cohen to the orphans.

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