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SAILORS LIVE WELL ON BOARD MERCHANT SHIPS

United States Shipping Board
Safeguards Their Interests.

NOT LIKE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

Inspectors See That Crews on American Commercial Craft Get All the Comforts That Are Coming to Them—Men Have Dining Saloons, Baths, Proper Air Space and Sanitary Beds—Food Is Ample With Same Menu for Officers and Men.

Recent appointment by the United States shipping board of inspectors, attached to its recruiting service, whose business is to see that the crews of American merchant vessels get all the comforts that are due them, has served to attract attention to the conditions under which the crews work aboard the ships of the new merchant marine.

Contrasts between living and working conditions aboard merchant vessels today and "the good old days" of the sail, as regards the crew, are startling, and all in favor of the present. Jack is now treated with consideration, and lives better, on the average, than he would live if working ashore.

As four thousand young men from factory and farm are now going into the merchant marine every month through the shipping board's training service, public interest in the way the men live aboard the nation's new cargo ships is taking on a personal aspect. The shipping board is receiving frequent inquiries on the subject. Mothers and sisters and wives—to say nothing of sweethearts—want to know if their sailor boys are getting good food and proper beds, and they are not at all backward in asking for specific information on the subject.

The shipping board is taking special pains to inform the public of conditions on ships under its control—and that means all vessels under the flag of more than 2,500 tons. As comforts on smaller ships, as well as on the larger ones, are regulated by law, it is safe to assume that every American sailor today is far better off than sailors have ever been before.

The U. S. shipping board is not confining its activities in behalf of merchant crews to legal requirements, however. Finding that mines, liberally strewn at random by the Germans in violation of the rules of civilized warfare, usually explode under the forward part of the vessel striking them, the living quarters of crews have been removed from forward to aft.

Foreclosures used as living and sleeping quarters for an entire crew having been proven sometimes insanitary when the crew is large, the latest American ships are being fitted with staterooms for the men, with not more than four men to a room.

Forecastle Lamp "Burned Blue."

To understand how conditions in general have improved on American vessels since the old days of the square riggers, it is only necessary for the average citizen to read of how the crew lived on an American ship bound round Cape Horn in 1836, and contrast what he has read with an inspector's report of conditions on a cargo steamer operated under authority of the shipping board today. Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast," a classic among sea narratives, is authority for conditions in 1836.

Dana, author of the book quoted, made the passage from California in 1836, on board the ship Alert, which was considered a smart, well found vessel. Here is what he says of the living quarters of the crew while rounding Cape Horn:

"The forecastle was too uncomfortable to sit up in; and whenever we were below, we were in our berths. To prevent the rain and sea water which broke over the bows from washing down, we were obliged to keep the scuttle (in the deck) closed, so that the forecastle was nearly airtight. In this little wet, leaky hole we were all quartered, in an atmosphere so bad that our lamp, which swung in the middle from the beams, sometimes actually burned blue, with a large circle of foul air about it."

"The usual meal, day after day, for men standing hard watches in icy blasts, snow and hail, was a pot of hot tea, a hard biscuit and a slice of cold salt beef."

As to sanitary conditions, they may be judged by this entry in Dana's log covering the passage of the Cape, which lasted a month:

"Not a razor, nor a brush, nor a drop of water, except rain and spray, had come near us all the time; for we were on allowance of fresh water; and who would strip and wash himself in salt water on deck, in snow and ice, with the thermometer at zero?"

Crews Have Waiters of Their Own.

What is the picture of conditions on shipboard today, contrasted with this?

Here is a paragraph from a shipping board inspector's report on the living quarters aboard a 5,000-ton cargo steamer built in 1917 by the emergency fleet corporation and engaged in overseas traffic:

"The crew's quarters were aft. They contained 12 pipe berths, each made up with a good mattress, pillow and blankets supplied by the United States shipping board. There were 120 cubic feet of air space for each man as provided by law, and 16 feet of floor space. Each man had a berth of his own, and not more than two berths were placed in a tier.

"The forecastle was situated aft, out of danger from mine explosions. It was ventilated by three large ports, and lighted by electric lights. Each man had a steel full-length locker for his clothes. There were shower baths for both sailors and firemen.

"The ship was fitted with a tank foriced drinking water, to which the crew had access at all times.

"Meals were served in a mess room, or dining saloon, the crew and the firemen each having a mess of their own, with a messman to serve their food. The table was clean, with good chin and other accessories. At the time of my visit there were fresh peaches and tomatoes on the table, which was being set up for supper."

The luxury of this would have upset an old-time sailor man, who, when a heavy wave washed the crew's kid of beef over the lee rail in its passage from the galley, was forced to go supperless to bed.

An interesting sidelight on the victualing of modern crews is afforded by the fact that in these times the same bill of fare is served in forecastle and cabin on American ships. Jack gets just as much and just as good food as the officers. The bill is made out by the food administration at Washington, and is the same for all ships under the flag.

It provides ample meals, in which fresh meats abound, even on the long-est voyages.

What Jack Eats When at Sea.

The bill of fare which accompanies the report quoted show that Jack fares better at sea than many of the government clerks at Washington, who rely upon boarding houses and restaurants for their daily bread.

Here is a sample Monday morning breakfast:

Hominy and milk Hot beef steak
Hot boiled potatoes Bread and butter Coffee

This is Tuesday's dinner:
Broth soup Roast Mutton
Lima beans Hot boiled potatoes
Bread and butter

Bread and butter pudding

Thursday's supper is as follows:
Baked pork and beans Corn beef hash
Hot boiled potatoes Cheese
Stewed fruit Bread and butter
Tea

Sunday's dinner bill calls for tomato soup, stewed chicken and vegetables and plum pudding. Butter is served at all three meals, and milk and sugar with coffee.

The report quoted continues:

"The cooking on this ship was found to be first class, the food being well prepared and palatable. The cooks were young and intelligent, and took great pride in their work."

In order that the supply of cooks for the country's merchant ships shall not fall below the greatly increased requirements of the new fleet, the shipping board is conducting two schools for cooks and bakers, on specially fitted ships stationed at Boston and New York respectively, and is also teaching cooking to apprentices on its eight other training ships.

PORTLAND CHURCHES TO GIVE THANKS SUNDAY

Special thanksgiving services will be held in the churches of Portland next Sunday at the resumption of services after a recess of five weeks.

BIRTHS.

To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Olson, 4524 East Seventy-eighth, November 8, a son.

To Mr. and Mrs. T. U. Williams, 6135 Thirty-seventh avenue, October 29, a son.

To Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Marshall, 5822 Ninety-second, October 29, a son.

To Mr. and Mrs. Seward N. Finney, 9720 Sixty-fourth avenue, October 27, a son.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Sahlman, 9651 Forty-third avenue, October 25, a son.

MARRIAGES.

Frank Fleming, 20, 540 Miller street, and Reith Jones Murphy, legal, 5417 Sixty-ninth street S. E.

For Sale.

One small cookstove, like new; nice for apartment; also sanitary couch. Call 9408 Fifty-sixth avenue S. E. Telephone, Tabor 8104.

FIRST CHOICE VOTES ELECT COMMISSIONERS

C. A. Bigelow and S. C. Pier were elected city commissioners on first-choice votes, according to the official count. To fill the two offices, 70,391 first-choice votes were cast. A majority, sufficient to elect, as defined by the city charter, then would be 17,598 votes. Official figures show Mr. Bigelow with 18,161 votes, Mr. Pier with 18,058 and Dan Kellaher with 17,277. Mr. Pier's margin is 781.

MONSTER PEACE CELEBRATION TO BE HELD NOV. 28

The monster peace celebration planned for Saturday has been postponed to November 28, Thanksgiving day. This decision was reached by the committee in charge at the suggestion of Mayor Baker, who had been advised from Washington, D. C., to the effect that this will be the program at the national capital.

Churches will be opened Thanksgiving morning where services of gratitude for the salvation of civilization will be held and the entire afternoon devoted to the mammoth military and civilian parade and other festivities. As Thanksgiving is a holiday, it may be devoted in its entirety to the celebration with a clear conscience.

SOLDIER APPRECIATES NEWS IN THE HERALD

Arcadia, Cal., Nov. 6, 1918—Editor The Herald: I found this piece of poetry in Trench and Camp, a camp paper published at many of the large camps, and I thought that you would like to publish it, so am sending it along.

You will remember me as having worked for the New Method Laundry for five years. Mr. McDougall sends me the Lents paper every week, and I am always glad when the day of its arrival rolls around.

With best wishes for your success, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

CORPORAL H. M. BURNHAM,
38th, Balloon Company, Arcadia, California.

My First Night in Camp

In there with my two thin blankets
As thin as a slice of ham.

A German spy was likely the guy
Who made them for Uncle Sam.

How did I sleep? Don't kid me,
My bed sack is filled with straw

And lumps and humps and big fat bumps

That punched me till I'm raw.

Me and my two thin blankets
As thin as the last thin dime.

As thin as a chorus girl's dress, I
guess,

Well I had a hell of a time.

I'd pull them up from the bottom,
My nightie's my B. V. D.'s,

A couple of yanks to cover my shanks

And then my toes would freeze.

You could use them for porous plasters,

Or myby to strain the soup,

My pillows my shoes, when I try to snooze

And I've chillblains, cough and croup.

Me and my two thin blankets,

Bundled up under my chin.

Yes, a German spy was likely the guy,

And gosh, but he made them thin.

Lents Evangelical Church.

The ban will be lifted. The regular services will be resumed at the Evangelical Church, Lents, next Sunday morning and evening. Sunday school at 9:45, and preaching at 11 A. M., Young People's meeting at 6:30, and preaching at 7:30 P. M. The church services both morning and evening will be devoted to, "Thoughts for Thanksgiving for the Allied Victory in the World War." Our whole church and Sunday school should be present to celebrate this thanksgiving for victory over autocracy and militarism. The cause for this celebration is one of the greatest in the history of the world. All are most heartily invited. "Come let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

THE PASTOR.

Who Wants to Help?
An aged woman living in Lents is out of wood. A friend living east of town has plenty of wood and wants to contribute a cord to keep the widow's house warm. Who will bring the wood to town? Who owns a machine, and wants to do a good turn. Call at The Herald office.

DEATHS.

November 13, at 6587 Eighty-first street S. E., Benjamin R. Jordan, age 1 year. Funeral services conducted at the funeral parlors of A. D. Kenworthy & Co., Lents.

Richard H. Baker, 9529 Forty-fifth, November 10, 3 months.

William Brimmer, 7403 Sixty-second, November 8, 45 years.

POPULAR PORTLAND GIRL WEDS TEXAS TIMBERMAN

At Beaumont, Texas, Miss Unis Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Jones, 4842 Sixty-fourth street S. E., was married to William C. Reed, of the Columbia Spar Company, of Beaumont, Rev. E. P. Drake, of Portland, officiated.

Miss Jones recently went to Texas on a visit and the wedding was quietly arranged. The party will motor back to Portland, stopping to visit friends en route. Miss Jones had many friends in the neighborhood of her home, and they will welcome her as Mrs. Reed with a real housewarming.

Mr. Gribble enlisted with the United States Marine Corps last April but in seven months of service he has seen some active fighting, according to Mrs. Gribble. In August he went to France, and September 13 he was temporarily put out of commission. According to his letter, three wounds in his leg did not stop him from fighting, but when he became wounded in his right wrist he was obliged to crawl to a place of safety.

Hold Your Liberty Bonds.

Don't surrender your Liberty Bond, conditionally or unconditionally.

To Comfort Soldiers.

Every dollar contributed to the United War Work Campaign, November 11 to 18, will be used to bring comfort to soldiers of the Allied armies.

Boy Killed by Motor

MacArthur Williams, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Williams, was run over and killed Sunday evening by an automobile driven by D. P. Newman, at Sixty-ninth and Division streets.

House for Sale.

Four-room house and lot, 50x175, near car, with household furniture, chickens, etc. Going away and must make quick sale. Favorable terms to right party. Call on Mrs. Alice Hamann, 40410 Fifty-sixth avenue S. E.

Girl Accidentally Shot.

Rosy Beterno, aged five, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Beterno, of East Eighty-sixth street and Powell Valley road, was seriously wounded when she was struck by a stray bullet while playing near her home Monday.

For Sale Cheap.

Horse, wagon, harness, plow and cultivator, for sale cheap. Mrs. A. D. Riddle, near Wilson Station.

Wanted—Someone to do plain family sewing in exchange for piano lessons. Call Tabor 4518.

