



South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE 1860'S

FROM 1867 TO 1869

Transcripts of the reports of the annual meetings as reported in the local press of the day

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Annual Meeting 1867

The first annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held in the new watch house last night. Alderman Glover was called to the chair, and there was a large attendance of members and those interested in the prosperity of the institution. Among those present were—Alderman J. F. Spence, secretary to the Borough of Tynemouth Life Brigade; Messrs. John Robinson; J. W. Lambe; M. Cay; S. Malcolm (secretary); Dr. Stokoe; J. Crisp; and S. Cottew and T. Tynemouth (captains), etc. etc.

The Chairman said he had been called upon most unexpectedly to fill the chair this evening. Although unexpectedly, he had great pleasure presiding for five minutes, or half an hour, or whatever the length of time might be, over a meeting of the members of so noble a body as the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. (Applause.) After stating the object of the meeting, the chairman called upon Mr. Malcolm (secretary) to read the report.

Mr. Malcolm read the report, as follows:—

"The committee, in presenting the first annual report to the members of this institution will endeavor as briefly as possible to give an outline of the transactions of the Brigade since its formation. The establishing of Life Brigades in general is of recent date, and to Tynemouth will ever belong the honour of organizing the first brigade, on the model of which this and other brigades have been established. To establish one on this side of the mouth of the Tyne, a few gentlemen met together in December, 1865, and formed themselves into provisional committee. A public meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held in the Town Hall early in January, 1866, and, on the 31st of the same month, the services of 47 volunteers who had enrolled themselves as members were accepted by the Board of Trade, from which date the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was officially established. The first drill took place at the south pier, February 17th, 1866, under the command of Mr. Byrne, of the coastguard service. The movement soon became popular, and in a few weeks the roll had increased to one hundred and forty, and now reaches to two hundred men who have attended drill.

The necessity for it soon became apparent, for on the night of April 2, the schooner "Tenterden," of Sunderland, came ashore behind the South Pier during a heavy gale. Forty-five members were speedily on the spot, and, under the superintendence of the Coastguard, succeeded in rescuing the crew, 5 in number, and a woman and her infant, from a watery grave. Without further detail the members have attended 9 wrecks, the crews amounting to 57 all told, and of which they have been instrumental in saving 30 lives, the rest, with the exception of two boys, being saved by the lifeboats or were enabled to get ashore themselves. In the fearful gale of January 6, 1867, these two boys were drowned, one by getting into a boat which was swamped, the other being washed off his vessel by a heavy sea. During the past long and severe winter the members have been very much exposed to storm and tempest while pursuing their arduous and perilous avocation. It soon became evident that something would have to be done to provide for their comfort while on duty. An appeal was made to the public for funds to erect a watch-house, and the liberal response enabled us to erect the comfortable and commodious building we now occupy. Your committee takes this opportunity of thanking the subscribers for their sympathy, and those gentlemen who have given us the useful instruments which adorn its wall. Our thanks are also especially due to P. J. Messent, Esq., the piers engineer, for furnishing the plans, and rendering valuable assistance during the erection. While the committee have been mindful of the comfort the members in general, they also contemplate providing before the winter sets in an additional room especially adapted for the accommodation of shipwrecked crews, and they are encouraged by the hope that their intentions have only to be made known when the necessary facilities will be afforded for carrying out this much needed project. We have cause for congratulation that this Brigade during the first year of its existence has been enabled to distinguish itself so much, especially in being the first institution of the kind to save life from shipwreck. This we say, not from any boastful superiority in point of efficiency, because we believe had other brigades been similarly situated a like success would have attended their efforts in the noble cause for which these establishments have been instituted. In conclusion, we hope that the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, so successfully launched, will continue to be a permanent institution of the town, that each member will be stimulated in the future by the events the past, and, in the words of our motto, will be "Always ready" to risk their lives to save any poor manner who may be wrecked on our coast."

In the absence of the Treasurer (Mr. A. Stevenson), Mr. Malcolm also read the financial statement, which showed that the income of the Brigade during last year was £195 17s 1d, and the expenditure £179 9s 9d, leaving a balance of £16 7s 4d. This sum, added to which £25 they had been promised from the Beard of Trade, would make £41 odd, which would be applied towards defraying the expenses of the new room they intended to build before the winter set in.

Mr. Wilson moved the adoption of the report and in doing so expressed his admiration of the way in which the Secretary for the Brigade had performed his duties during the past year. Mr. Robert .Bell seconded the motion.

Ald. J. F. Spence, North Shields, said the Chairman had asked him to say few words, and although he did not attend the meeting with the intention of addressing them he had had very great pleasure in expressing his admiration of the report which he had just heard read. He congratulated the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade on being the first to save any lives in the kingdom. They on the other side, being the older institution of the two, were naturally desirous to be the first to save life, but when they heard of what their friends in South Shields had done he for one—and he might speak for the whole of the members of the Tynemouth brigade—rejoiced to think that they were the first whose services were called into requisition with such important results. He considered it great honour, and thought there was not a more laudable movement, or one more calculated to raise men in the estimation of their fellow-men than that in which they were engaged. They had already saved many lives when in peril and their success he ascribed to diligent practice, and the state of efficiency in working the apparatus to which they had attained. They all remembered the loss of the Stanley, and he could confidently assert that if Mr. Byrne had had twenty-five disciplined men to aid him on that occasion, many valuable lives might have been saved. (Hear, hear.) He did not like to see men acting who were totally unacquainted with the apparatus they were handling. When everyone knew his business, the chances of saving life were more favourable than when the force was composed nothing better than the rabble. He rejoiced to think that the South Shields brigade had attained such a high standard of proficiency, and he was delighted to see many of the members present. He hoped they would never fall short of the motto at the end of their report, as he was sure they would not, and although he did not wish to see wrecks, he hoped, when they did occur, that they would as successful in saving lives as they had hitherto been. (Applause)

The Chairman then put the motion approving of the report, and afterwards scrutineers were appointed to go over the votes recorded for the election of officers during the ensuing year.

Mr. Wilson said he was pleased to see many of their worthy supporters present. It had been their study as officers of the institution to give all their friends satisfaction. Their humble endeavors to save life had been very successful, and he hoped they would always be ready to do what lay in their power for their fellow-men when they required their services. He wished to propose, as most of the members of the brigade were working men, in regard to the money that the Board of Trade awarded, that it be distributed among those who were the means of saving the life of shipwrecked crews, to buy clothes and boots, as there was great tear and wear upon them, and they could not be replaced unless some assistance was given. If the meeting approved of the proposal he was confident that the public would supply them with the necessary funds to provide the food that might be consumed. He had much pleasure in submitting the resolution the meeting.

Mr. Wm. Spence seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Captain Cottew proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary and Treasurer. Since the institution of the Brigade they had conducted its affairs in way which had given entire satisfaction to its members. Mr. McQueen seconded the motion, which was carried amid vociferous cheering.

Mr. Malcolm replied. He was very much gratified to think that his services had been highly appreciated. For any trouble he had been caused he thought himself fully rewarded the success of the Brigade. They were successful in their very infancy, for after the third time they had been at drill they had to put what they learned in theory into practice, and were able thereby to save a ship's crew. He hoped since they got on so well last year that they would still go on progressing. On behalf of the Treasurer, who, he had no doubt, would duly appreciate the motion just made, and himself, he begged to return thanks.

Mr. Malcolm proposed a vote of thanks to the Captains. It was necessary to have leaders or captains in an institution of this kind, and he was sure those who had experienced the storms and wrecks of last year would admit they (the captains) were at least well worthy of a vote of thanks. If re-elected, he had no doubt they would continue to discharge their duties in an equally satisfactory manner.

Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Captain Matthew Cay being unavoidably absent, Captains Cottew and Tynemouth briefly replied. Mr. Wilson the moved that Dr. Stokoe should be elected doctor to the Brigade. Mr. Bell seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr. Cay said although he had not the honour of being member of the Brigade, would take the liberty, as fellow townsman and an old tar, of telling them much he admired their institution. He had always been impressed with the idea that on their iron bound coast there were places where for many miles a lifeboat was of no use. This objection had been seen by the Board of Trade, and for many years they had been thinking of the line and rocket. They had now tried to introduce it, and he was proud to say that they had been so far successful. The benefit to be derived from such means of saving life was incalculable, for, as Mr. Spence stated, had the rocket apparatus been in use when the Stanley came ashore, a number of valuable lives might have been saved. He thought Tynemouth and South Shields should produce the two best Brigades on the coast. There were plenty of men competent for the work, and with the spirit of humanity which they evinced, he had no doubt they would do a great amount of good in the way of saving valuable lives. He was only sorry that there was not some way of remunerating those who watched night after night, but hoped that they would come to that by and by, as it could not be expected that people could always work for nothing. He was very unfit to say anything the subject. He had risen merely for the purpose of introducing his friend Mr Robinson (applause), who, he had doubt, could say something better worth listening to than anything he could say. In conclusion hoped that there would be no strife between the Tynemouth and South Shields brigades further than an honest emulation as to who should do most to promote the welfare and happiness of their fellow-men. (Applause)

Mr. Robinson then addressed the meeting. After stating that he had not heard the report read, which he regretted and that he was very glad to see such an enthusiastic and numerous meeting, he spoke of the benefit of having good captains, and the necessity there was for those who were under their command being thoroughly trained. He trusted that the members of the South Shields brigade would attend to discipline and training, so that when the time for action came they might be able to perform their duties with efficiency, and credit to themselves. Mr Robinson then spoke of the moral benefit coming to the members of the brigade from the philanthropic nature of the work in which they were engaged. When they felt they were doing good to their fellow creatures, they were doing good to themselves. There was no satisfaction in a man working only for his own benefit. If they wanted to promote their own happiness they must seek to promote that of others. (Applause) In conclusion, he trusted that the society would go on and prosper. He hoped their services would not be called too often into requisition, but storms would rise, and ships would be wrecked, and he trusted when these occurrences did take place that every member of the Brigade would be found at his post. Many people had predicted that the volunteer movement would not last, but to-day it was as vigorous ever, and it was of great benefit to many young men. He trusted that their voluntary efforts would be the same to the end, and he hoped they would have the thanks of their townsmen for their labors. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Malcolm thought that it was desirable that those gentlemen who contributed to the funds of the brigade should know how the money had been expended. He therefore moved that the report and financial statement should be distributed among the subscribers and members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith, and agreed to.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson for the interest he had all along taken in the institution, which was enthusiastically responded to.

Mr. Wilson replied.

The scrutineers not having their task finished the time the other business of the meeting over, an interval elapsed, during which the members of the Brigade were treated to a plentiful supply of refreshments. On the list being made up, the following were found to have the highest number of votes, and were declared duly elected office-bearers for the ensuing year: —

Captains—W. Cay, S. Cottew, M. Cay, jun. and Wm. Wright. Secretary—S. Malcolm. Treasurer—A. Stevenson. Committee of management —Geo. Stokoe, Robert Blair, George Smith. Jos. Crisp, G. A. Wilson, Thomas Tynemouth, Joseph Smith, L. Mackey, Charles Pearson, Robert Wells, T. G. Mabane, and G. P. Renoldson.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 18 July 1867

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

Annual Report for 1868

On Thursday night the annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held in the Watch House, South Pier, Ald. Glover in the chair. There were also present Messrs Archibald Stevenson, M. Cay sen., S. Malcolm, W. Cay, M. Cay jun., T. G. Mabane, J.F. Spence (secretary of the Tynemouth Life Brigade), Mr J. Bourne (chief officer of coastguard), Mr Blakie, of the Customs, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he recollected they had a very lively and hearty meeting last year on the occasion of their annual gathering, and that they had also spent a very pleasant evening at the close of business. He had no doubt but they would spend another very enjoyable evening together. He was very glad to know that during the past year there had been very few casualties. The Brigade met for practice once a month, to prepare for whatever might happen on the coast. It was gratifying to know that the South Shields Life Brigade was the first in the United Kingdom to save life. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to hear that the Institution was entirely out of debt, and that there was a small balance to the credit of the Brigade (Hear, hear.) He must congratulate them on the additions and improvements that had been made to the establishment. It was also satisfactory to know that Captain Robertson, Inspector General of the Board of Trade, had on the occasion of his visit, expressed his entire satisfaction with all the arrangements of the Watch House. He might say that the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was the most efficient in the country – North Shields perhaps being next. (Laughter and cheers)

The CHAIRMAN then called upon

MR S. MALCOLM, the secretary, to read the following annual report:-

In presenting the Second Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, the committee, at the outset, would congratulate the members on the favourable position of the corps at the present time. Although during the past year we have not been called upon to attend shipwrecks, yet we are thankful that some of our members have been enabled to save life within a few hundred yards of where we now are. It will be remembered on Sunday afternoon, July 28, 1867, a small boat, containing eight persons, was driven among the broken water of a heavy sea at the entrance of the river. In consequence, she was swamped, and the occupants thrown among the boiling surf. A boat was speedily manned by five of our members, who, at the imminent risk of their lives, succeeded in rescuing two men who had clung to the boat's bottom. They also picked up a woman, but it was found on reaching the shore, she was quite dead. Had it not been for the heroic conduct of these brave men, the whole of the unfortunate people would have been drowned.

It is also gratifying to report that during stormy weather there has been a good attendance of members at the Watch House, some remaining on duty all night when necessity seemed to require it. There have been also 14 rocket drills, with an average attendance of 42.

The Brigade has been twice inspected by Captain Robertson, R.N., Surveyor-General to the Board of Trade, and on both occasions he was pleased to compliment the members on the high standard of efficiency they had attained. Letters from the Board of Trade have also been received, conveying in complimentary terms their thanks for your efforts in furthering the object for which life brigades were established.

At the last annual meeting your committee expressed their intention of making an additional room to the Watch House for the better accommodation of shipwrecked crews. This addition has been made, replete with all that forethought could suggest and skill could devise for making as perfect an establishment as the funds at their disposal would allow.

A handsome mast, suitably fitted up for exercising with the rocket apparatus, has been provided; and the committee thank those kind friends who have assisted them with money and useful gifts.

There is one thing that seems to be a misunderstanding among some of the members, and which your committee wish to place before you in its proper light. An impression prevails that each member who attends a shipwreck will be paid by the Board of Trade according to the services rendered. In the wreck circular issued September, 1866, distinction is made between Volunteer Life Brigades and Companies of Volunteers. With regard to Brigades, the Board of Trade "will contribute annually *towards the funds* of each Brigade a sum varying according to the number of men enrolled, the attendance at exercise, , the efficiency of the Brigade, and the services rendered to ships in distress." Companies of Volunteers are formed at outlying places along the coast, where the population is widely scattered, and where it would be impossible to establish brigades. These companies consist of farm labourers, long shore men, &c., and to encourage them to assist the coastguard the Board of Trade pay each man 2s at each exercise of the rocket apparatus, and in case of shipwreck each of the members present a sum varying from 2s to £1 according to the nature and description of the services rendered, the number of lives saved, &c.; so that the difference between brigades and companies is very manifest, and we belong to the former, our payments on account of the above mentioned services will go to the general working expenses of this institution, and not individual members.

Your committee hope now that the Watch House is finished, and the mast erected, they will be able during the year to carry out to some extent the proposal at the last annual meeting that members under certain conditions should be provided with warm clothing for doing duty in stormy weather.

In conclusion, your committee trusts that each member will endeavour to do all he can to promote the interests and efficiency of the South Shields, Volunteer Life Brigade.

The report was received and adopted on the motion of Mr. BAVIDOR, seconded by Mr. VINT, several members expressing their satisfaction at its contents.

MR ARCHIBALD STEVENSON, treasurer, read the financial statement, which showed that the income of the Brigade for the past year, including a balance in hand at the commencement of the year of £16 7s 11d, was £154 5s 5¹/₂d and the expenditure £152 2s 7¹/₂d, leaving now a balance in the treasurer's hand of £2 2s 10d.

This report was received and adopted on the motion of MR WRIGHT, seconded by MR COTTEW.

MR T. WILSON stated that at a meeting held August 21, 1867, it had been resolved "That each member—seamen exempted—in order to make himself effective, must attend five drills during the year, and any member, not attending three drills during the year shall have his name struck off the roll." He thought this rule ought to be put in force.

MR MABANE was of the opinion that pilots ought to be exempted from that rule, as well as seamen. Their duties were such as to require them often when drill was being carried on; and he did not think they could expect them to give up their own and better paid calling to attend five drills a year, (Hear, hear).

After some discussion, it was agreed that pilots be exempted from the rule as well as seamen.

It was resolved that the Watch House remain open throughout the year; and that Captains be, ex-officio members of the committee.

MR J.F. SPENCE said it gave him great pleasure to hear the gratifying report which had been read setting forth the proceedings of the brigade. He thought they had every reason to congratulate themselves on having got their house into proper order, in order that it might be of service when required. He hoped that the brigade would go on flourishing, and he had no doubt that should the occasion arise they would be the means of saving life, although he trusted that the day was far distant when a casualty would occur to shipping on the coast. The work which the River Tyne Commissioners were doing would be the means of preventing wrecks; and he might say there had not been a vessel ashore at North Shields since the 28th of December, 1865. (Hear, hear)

It was resolved that the Watch House should be invested In trustees.

J. BLAIKIE moved a vote of thanks to the officers of the brigade for their services during the past year.

Mr J. W. LAMB seconded the motion, which was carried.

MR S. MALCOLM briefly acknowledged the compliment. He said he was sure it was the desire of all the officers of the brigade to make the institution the best of its kind in the kingdom. (Hear, hear)

The following were elected the officers for the ensuing year:- Captains-Wm. Wright, Wm. Cay, M. Cay, jun. and WM. Cottew. Committee- T. Mabane, G. Stokoe, T. A. Wilson, Jos. Smith, Geo. Smith, R. Wells, R. Birch, T. Houlby, T. Tinmouth, Joseph Crisp, R. Blair, and R. Bell. Treasurer- Archibald Stevenson. Secretary- S. Malcolm. The business of the meeting having being concluded, the members of the brigade partook of supper together, the remainder of the evening being spent in a very agreeable and harmonious manner.

The proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to Ald. Glover for presiding.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 1 August 1868

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

Annual Meeting 1869

The annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held, last night, in the Watch-house, on the South Pier. There was a full attendance of members, and others interested in the institution, including Mr. A. Stevenson, Mr. J. W. Lamb, Mr. J. L. Hall, Mr Crisp. Blaikie, Mr. Smith (captain of the Lifeboat), Mr. Cay, senior. Mr. Cay, junior, Wilson, &c.; Ald. Glover occupied the chair.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, expressed the pleasure it gave him to be present with them on the occasion of their annual meeting and proceeded to notice, briefly, the valuable services rendered by the Brigade during the severe storms which had visited the North East coast during the past year, and added that they been the means of rescuing 27 fellow-men from a watery grave. (Applause.) Very few brigades, no matter where, could say the same thing, and many of the members, who were always-on the alert, ready to give assistance when required, had distinguished themselves by their gallant conduct. The institution of the Volunteer Life Brigade was one of the noblest, and he trusted it would continue to receive from the town that support which it so well deserved. (Hear, hear, and applause.) The Chairman then read letters from the following gentlemen, expressing their sorrow at their inability to attend the meeting that evening:—The Mayor (John Williamson, Esq.,) J. F. Spence Esq., secretary to the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, and Henry Nelson, Esq. He concluded by calling upon

Mr. S. Malcolm, the secretary, to read the annual report, of which the following is copy:—

“The committee, in reviewing the events of the past year, feel grateful that it is their duty to report to the members and friends the continued usefulness and increasing value of this institution. As will be seen from the following brief summary, we have been kept tolerably busy in attending to those whose misfortune it has been to require our aid. On fourteen different occasions the signal guns have fired, summoning for service. July 6th, 1868, salmon boat capsized, and three men were saved. Sept. 27th the schooner Impulse, of Maldon, got ashore behind the South Pier. The crew, seven in number were saved by the rocket apparatus. Oct. 4th, signal guns were fired, the steamer Martlett being in distress. Our services were not required. At half-past two on the morning of Oct. 23rd, the guns fired from the Castor. It proved a false alarm, much to the annoyance of those who turned out.

Nov. 6th, the galliot Premier, of Montrose, came ashore. The crew, five in number, were safely landed. Three times during the day the signal guns sounded the alarm for ships in danger. At two o'clock on the morning of Nov. 24th, the guns summoned us to one of the Commissioners' hoppers stranded on the beach. Several rockets were fired. These not answering, the lifeboat stationed on the sands was with much difficulty launched, and the crew of two men brought ashore. March 5th 1869, the guns summoned us to a coble in distress and March 29th to a schooner on the Herd Sand, but on neither occasion was the apparatus used. June 10th, a salmon boat got among the broken water along the beach, and was capsized. The two men were saved. The night June 15th and the morning of June 16th will long be remembered by the members who were on duty. The signal gone went off about ten p.m. The Brigade mustered in great force and took the gear along pier the but the whereabouts of the vessel was not known until a rocket was seen to go up from the rocks about two miles along the coast. After severe struggles against wind and rain we managed to get there in time to assist the coastguard in saving the crew of seven hands of the schooner Anne, of Rye. Some members went home tired out, others came back to the Watch-house, which was most fortunate, as two herring boats were driven ashore during the violence of the gale. The crew of one boat got out very easily, but the second boat's crew of three men would undoubtedly have been drowned had not been for this Brigade. Great courage was displayed by some, which has been reported to the Board Trade, and which we hope will be suitably acknowledged. Thus have we briefly mentioned the principal incidents of the past year, from which an idea can be obtained of what has been done, although very little idea of the exertion necessary to accomplish it. We have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that, with our assistance, 26 men have been rescued, of whom several would otherwise have been drowned. These, added to others saved since our formation, in January, 1866, make a grand total of 68, as the result of our labors. We think the value of the Watch House, more especially the room set apart for shipwrecked men, was never more manifest than during the gale of last month, when the men, in a few minutes after being got out of the water, were supplied with refreshments, dry clothing, a warm bed, and, if needs be, a hot bath also. Looking at these things we have reason to be thankful that a kind Providence has permitted us to be his humble instruments in doing a little to relieve the sufferings of those who have been cast upon our coast. We have at present 131 members on the roll books, of whom 80 have made themselves efficient by attending the required number of drills, of which there have been 13, with an average attendance of 42.2. January 29th, the Brigade was inspected by Capt. Robertson, R.N., Surveyor General, Board of Trade, who expressed himself highly satisfied with its efficiency. We are also glad to report that Mr Bell, one of the members, has invented a double sheeve block for travelling along the hawser. By this improved "traveler" people can be brought ashore with greater speed, and it is highly approved of by those who have seen it work. Steps are being taken to bring it before the notice of the Board of Trade, and we hope ere long to see in general use. The Board of Trade have built a new rocket house, and well furnished it with new apparatus. This addition was much needed, and makes our Watch House more complete.

In February last the committee granted permission to the Rev. P. H. Moore, chaplain of the Joseph Straker mission ship, to hold religious services in the Watch House. These, with his able assistant, Mr. Herdman, he has conducted on the Sunday evenings with gratifying success. They are becoming very popular, and lately a harmonium has been introduced, which will no doubt form an additional attraction. In conclusion, the committee hope the members will continue to manifest an increasing interest in this institution, and that it will always be their desire to maintain the efficiency and usefulness of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade."

The Treasurer (Mr Archibald Stevenson) read his report. The Income had been £35 3s 6d, and the expenditure side of the account showed a balance of £10 in favour of take Brigade. Mr Stevenson said on the face of it the report was flattering; but they required to spend a large sum for painting the house, and therefore their balance would be taken up. He thought that the underwriters of the port had set a good example by contributing to their funds, as it was the first society of the sort which had done so. The Lifeboat Committee had given £10, and Mr Cay, one of the committee, said they were prepared to give more if necessary.

The report and balance sheet were passed.

Mr. J. W. Lamb said he thought the Brigade did not receive that support from the trustees of the Lifeboat Fund which they ought. The Volunteer Life Brigade rendered infinitely more service in saving lives than the lifeboats, and he thought that instead of their receiving £5 from the fund _

Mr. Matthew Cay, with all due deference to you, Mr. Lamb, but the Brigade at present receives £10 from the trustees of the Lifeboat Fund, with an assurance of more if required. (Applause)

Mr. Lamb: I am exceedingly glad that this fact has been brought before the public, because it is very important.

Mr. Cay: If the Life Brigade wanted £20, I have no doubt they would get it. (Applause)

Mr. J. L. Hall said that, as a trustee of the Lifeboat Fund, he could bear testimony to the zealous manner in which Mr. Cay at all times looked after the interests of the Brigade.

It was then agreed that the reports be printed and circulated, and a copy of them sent to the Shipping Gazette.

Mr. S Malcolm said there was one member of the Brigade to whom a special vote of thanks ought to be passed. He was at all times, and under all circumstances, ready to attend when the Brigade was called out, and, moreover, he looked after the property belonging the brigade with great care; and, therefore, he had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr T. A. Wilson for his valuable services. (Applause)

Mr. A Stevenson seconded the motion and said he looked upon the services of Mr Wilson to the Brigade as worth nearly £50. But Mr. Wilson did not work for money; He worked for love—(applause)—and if they were to lose him, his services would be greatly missed. (Applause)

Mr. Wilson returned thanks, and said it gave him great pleasure to be present at the meeting that evening. It had always been his study to do whatever lay in his power to further the objects of the Life Brigade, and common humanity told him to do so. He was very willing, when he had an hour or so to spare, to devote it in the service of the Volunteer Life Brigade. (Applause)

Mr. Blaikie said he had been asked to propose a vote of thanks to one of the officebearers, whose name, he was quite sure, he had only to mention in order that it might meet with their hearty approval, namely, Mr. Malcolm, the secretary. (Applause.) They were all aware what an important office that of secretary was in connection with almost anything; in fact, a smart, energetic secretary was a host in himself, and he felt confident that, Mr. Malcolm, they had the right man in the right place. (Applause) He was not now untried. He had been secretary to the Brigade, he believed, since its commencement, and they had had a true illustration hitherto of what he was able to do. It was a matter of the greatest importance that they should have, in connection with an institution of that kind, an intelligent person as secretary—one who was able to represent their interests on all occasions—one who was able to draw up such a report as they had before them that evening. (Applause.) And not only that, they all knew how devoted he was to the interests of the institution, not only as secretary, but as a member of the Brigade, and they further knew how seldom he was absent when the members were called out (Hear, hear, and applause.) He had, therefore, great pleasure in moving to him a vote of thanks.

J. L. Hall seconded the motion with the greatest of pleasure, and said the picture had not been overdrawn by Mr. Blaikie. (Applause)

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Malcolm briefly replied, and said he had always taken great interest in the Brigade, and any labour devoted to it, only felt, in tendering his services was doing his duty. (Applause.)

Mr. Cay, senior. Proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer Mr. Archibald Stevenson. He passed a eulogy upon the family to which belonged—a family noted for their philanthropic acts. (Applause)

The motion having been seconded and carried

Mr. Stevenson replied and said that he, as treasurer, had very little to do; occasionally he had to sign a cheque for money to be drawn out of the bank, and, indeed, if there was no money in the bank belonging to the brigade he would still sign a cheque. (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman: If I were you I would not part with Mr Stevenson, as treasurer. (Laughter)

A vote thanks was then passed to Mr. Charles Anderson, for his liberality in supplying the Watch House with coal; also to the Chairman and Mr. J. L. Hall for supplying the Watch House with water; and also to Dr. Stokoe and his assistant, Mr. Winter. The business part of the meeting over, the room was cleared, and, in a short time, the members returned to an excellent repast, kindly given by Mr. Archibald Stevenson, Ald. Glover occupied the chair. Toast and song was the round the evening, the meeting passing off most harmoniously. The company broke up about eleven o'clock.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year: Captains Wilson, W. Cay, Matthew Cay, and Nicholas Riddle. Treasurer, Archibald Stevenson, Esq. j secretary, -Mr S. Malcolm. The committee George Stokoe, R. Bell, T. Wilson, J. Crisp, J. G Mabane, T. Horsley, P. Birch, J. S. Smith, G. Smith, T. Wood, Mark McQueen, and R. Wells. Deputy Captains —T. Horsley, T. A. Wilson, George Smith, and John Clark. Surgeons—Dr's. Stokoe, and Winter.

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