

MOUSEHOLE FISHERMEN'S GALLANT RESCUE

THE SITUATION OF THE PENZANCE LIFEBOAT HOUSE

The Wesleyan Day School at Mousehole, was crowded on Monday evening, over four hundred people being present for the purpose of meeting Mr. W. J. Renfree Pellow, of Birmingham, who had arranged to distribute medals to the gallant six of Mousehole, who so nobly rescued the crew of the Baltic from St. Clement's Isle on the night of the 1st November.

Mr. Pellow was accompanied by several gentlemen from Penzance, and in the absence of Mr. W. Dennis Lawry, the chair was taken by Mr. Stephen Bond, of Penzance.

The Chairman said the object of the meeting was to do honour to whom honour was due. (Hear, hear). Mr. Pellow was a Cornishman – (applause) – and after seeing the gallant efforts put forward by the fishermen of that place on the night of the wreck, he had informed the speaker that he should like to make some small recognition to those who risked their lives to save others. (Hear, hear). Each man would receive a medal as a small token of Mr. Pellow's respect for their action in saving the crew. Unfortunately the medals were not such as Mr. Pellow had intended giving the men that evening, but a little later on they would be exchanged for the proper medals bearing a suitable inscription and the others, through Mr. Pellow's kindness, would be handed over to the Swimming Association for the boys. (Hear, hear). The Cornishman newspaper, referring to the matter last week, stated that "Mousehole makes history." It could be said also that "Mousehole continues to make history." (Hear, hear and applause).

Mr. Pellow, who was received with loud cheering, said when he visited Mousehole last Friday week and saw the rocket go up, he naturally looked to the lifeboat to rescue those in danger on the sea, but such was not the case, for the rescue was performed by those six men who in the face of a raging sea, risked their own lives to save others. (Hear, hear and applause). He felt proud that his brother Cornishmen had done such good work. (Hear, hear and applause). He was sorry that the proper medals had not been got ready in time, as those sent were not satisfactory to him. Concluding the speaker congratulated the six men of Mousehole on the heroism and conduct in risking their lives to save others. (Hear, hear). Mr. Pellow then distributed the medals to the following men, each of whom received rounds of applause: Messrs. Stanley Drew, Richard Thomas, Richard Harvey, Harry Harvey, Richard Harry, and Charles Harry, all fishermen with the exception of Richard Thomas, who is a mason.

Mr. Charles Tregenza, C.C., proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Pellow, and said they at Mousehole were extremely pleased to see Mr. Pellow there that evening. Townspeople would not only face the dangers – (Hear, hear) – they were ever ready to do anything for country and home. (Applause.) Referring to the services rendered by the Penzance lifeboat, he was sure the crew of that boat were worthy of credit, and the situation of the boathouse could not be altered by them. He was of opinion that the lifeboat was in the wrong place – (hear, hear) – and as long as she remained there she would in a great many cases be useless. (Hear, hear.) If those in power would only place the lifeboat-house between the stack and Newlyn Town, or in fact anywhere at Gwavas – (hear, hear) – the boat would then be available in any weather, provided they built the necessary slip; and it was their sincere hope that the Lifeboat Society would look into the matter.

As regards the crew, they could still retain the present one, but if was any difficulty on that head, they could without any trouble secure another crew. (Applause). He considered Mr. Pellow a worthy Cornishman, and they should be pleased to see him at Mousehole at any time. (Hear, hear.)

The vote of thanks was ably seconded by Mr. Richard Harry. Mr. Pellow was a man with a large heart: in fact, he had a Cornishman's heart. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Stanley Drew said he thought it was only right that one of the crew of the Lady White should thank Mr. Pellow for his kindness in taking the matter up, and on behalf of the crew he had much pleasure in doing so. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bond thought these men should also receive the Royal Humane Society's medal, and suggested that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Charles Trengenza and Bruce Wright, with others, be nominated.

Mr. R. Harry proposed that such a committee be formed with a view to approaching the Royal Humane Society.

Mr. F. W. Hockin seconded.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and to Mr. Geo. Laity, for his kindness in lending his boat, Lady White, on the night, was proposed, Mr. Bond remarking that a pair of oars were to be presented to Mr. Laity.

Mr. Bruce Wright, who was unable to attend the meeting, had received the following letter from the Secretary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, in reply to a letter to that Institution:

Dear Sir, – I have much pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and am at once making the usual inquiries with reference to the case you report. When I obtain these the matter will be place before the Committee of Management for their consideration. Since the 1st January we have granted rewards for the saving of 985 lives.

Transcribed from newspaper cuttings by D & I Flaxman