

days on which assistance was rendered up to the time of the annual meeting, on the 6th March, 1882. We commenced a fortnight earlier this year on account of the inclemency of the weather: there were only 38 applicants for relief on the opening day, 20th December, which tends to reduce the average for the year just elapsed. It will not be an easy matter to reduce the number much below the present figure, as quite a number of those looking to your Society for help have fair claims on your sympathy, owing to old age, sickness, or other infirmity; and, to these, "prosperous times" only means higher cost of living, while they have a severe struggle at the best; and a discouraging feature is that those who have been frequently assisted come to look upon it as a matter of course, and make little or no effort to forego it. On the 28th February relief was given in wood or provisions, or both, to—

16 Single Women	16
6 Married couples, no children	12
22 Married couples, with 71 children.....	115
19 Widows, with 50 children	69
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63 Applicants, representing	212 persons

In addition to those assisted by the Committee the Chairman has, as in former years, issued wood to a number of persons who needed no other assistance. A considerable amount in money was also expended in assisting special cases, in cash, purchase of railway or steamboat tickets, rent, board, &c. Quite a number of persons were sent to their friends at a greater or less distance, and thus placed in a position to earn their own living.

The late Council left in yard a quantity of fuel estimated at $70\frac{1}{4}$ cords, which, on delivery, was found to be only $60\frac{3}{4}$ cords. This discrepancy has arisen on the operations of many years, the yard never having been emptied before.

We purchased this year 150 cords wood from the Grand Trunk Railway Company, who generously delivered it at Point St. Charles at cost price. Of this lot there have been delivered to date $74\frac{3}{4}$ cords, leaving $75\frac{1}{4}$ cords in the yard. The total quantity issued during the past year was $135\frac{1}{2}$ cords.