

man who will use a curb bit in case of necessity, and use it humanely, was not inflicting so much pain on an animal as was suffered by the horse in question, and for the reason that a horse soon began to know the curb bit and slowed up when it commenced to pain it; the head was not kept in a painful position the whole time. He had heard of a horse's jaw being broken by the use of the curb bit; he had not heard of a like occurrence with the overdraw check-rein. From witness' experience in driving he believed that a carriage horse drove better without the overdraw check-rein; but he had been told by those having experience with trotting horses that they went better when the overdraw check-rein was used.

Re-examined—Even if, as Mr. Lowry said, it was necessary to use the overdraw check-rein when driving the horse in question, there was no reason for the animal being checked up when it was standing in the street.

Mr. W. M. Ramsay, manager of the Standard Life Assurance company, also deposed to having seen the animal on the 24th ult., when it was standing outside the Temple building. The animal was in pain, and he had no doubt that it was caused by the use of the overdraw check-rein, which was perfectly tight.

Dr. Duncan McEachran testified that he had studied the overdraw check-rein since its introduction. It was used by horsemen in some instances to control animals that were difficult to control. Some horses would get their heads close into the neck, and in that position they were sometimes apt to bolt; in such cases the use of the overdraw check-rein was justifiable. It was the abuse of the check-rein which the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wished to prevent. Witness had been frequently shocked by seeing horses with their noses forced up into the air, and the muscles of the head in a constrained position, so that the muscles of the neck became cramped, and the animal suffered torture. The abuse of the check-rein was most reprehensible, and should be denounced by every means. Although the overdraw check-rein might be useful in some cases, it was not useful in one case in a hundred. In all cases where a horse's head was held up so that it could not be got into a natural position the use of the check-rein was cruel. Overchecking was injurious to the muscles of the neck and the muscles of the back; in fact, the whole animal was in a constrained position and could not balance itself properly on its forefeet. It was a matter of sur-