

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TORONTO, ONTARIO.

*To the President and Council of the Ontario Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals :—*

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg respectfully to present to you my Report to December, 1878, and to call your attention to the recommendations it contains, which I think calculated to increase the usefulness of the Society, and to advance it in public estimation.

Poor Starved and Worn-out Horses.—Perhaps the most urgent class of cases I have to deal with are those of poor, starved, and worn-out horses, which are being continually pressed upon my attention by the public, and I accordingly interfere. I proceed in all cases first to remonstrate with drivers and owners, and as they seldom refuse their names and addresses no immediate arrests take place. In the majority of cases, however, remonstrance effects all that is desirable, better feeding and care being given to some of the animals, and those beyond all cure are destroyed.

It is highly necessary at all times to groom horses thoroughly, but at no time more so than in the summer season, and making such a careful inspection of harness as will at once induce the removal of parts that unduly press or chafe an animal. The dust and perspiration of the animals added to the friction of badly fitting harness produce the scalding, and eventually the sore backs and shoulders.

Working Horses with Sore Shoulders—In most of these cases I find that remonstrance on the spot and afterwards visiting the horses, etc., in their stables mitigates the evil practice, so that only in exceptionally cruel and hard cases I am compelled to prosecute. An intelligent public will see the wisdom of prevention by remonstrance being carried to its utmost extent, and not hastily draw the conclusion that the Society is slow and comparatively useless because its Inspector is not found daily prosecuting in the Police Court.

Street Railway Car Horses.—The treatment the street car horses receive has been the subject of much comment, and many persons blame the Society for what they call inattention to this matter on the part of the Inspector. I am fully aware of the difficulties of the