

an increase of 675; that of offences against By-laws, an increase of 596. The same may be said of nearly all matters falling under the civil jurisdiction of the Recorder's Court, as, for instance, cases in ejectment, which have increased from 142 to 171.

I might add that the revenue, consequent upon the above, has shown a decided improvement. It will be found to exceed by \$7,022,14 that of 1885.

Having alluded to the manner in which sidewalks are kept in winter, I must say that, at no other time during the nineteen years that I have been an officer of this Court, have the complaints in this respect been so numerous; the prosecutions entered during the last three months may be counted by hundreds. The fact is that the by-law regarding this matter is either very badly observed or but poorly understood. This by-law limits to six inches the thickness of snow to be left on sidewalks, but what most people do not seem anxious to learn, although it is, to my mind, a great deal more important, is that the by-law not only says that the sidewalk must be flat and even, but *on a level* with the neighbouring ones. There are to be found not a few people, who, going further than the law, imagine that they have given proof of a certain heroism and have well deserved of their fellow citizens when they have hacked and cut the ice and snow down to the boards, without stopping a moment to think that their neighbours are not bound to do the same. This is often the cause of a dangerous fall, especially at night, and such excess of zeal is totally at variance with the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

Fast driving is also a source of great complaints. The rate allowed by the by-law is six miles to the hour, that is the ordinary rate, when on a straight line, and a walk, when turning street corners. Now, in most of the 154 cases brought before the Court, during the last year, the speed was shown to have been, on an average, ten to twelve miles an hour. This is a dangerous pastime and an intolerable nuisance against which the Court has not ceased to strongly protest by a close application of the law.

Compared with that of 1885, the number of saloons found open on Sundays in 1886 has been 1.5 times larger. I attribute this result solely to an increased vigilance on the part of the Police. The guilty parties have been condemned to a fine of \$30 which