



PROTECTION of CHILDREN

Early History of the Humane and
Children's Aid Movement
in Ontario

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EARLY HISTORY

OF THE

Humane and Children's

Aid Movement

IN

ONTARIO

1886 - 1893

TORONTO:

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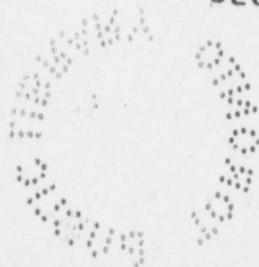
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FOREWORD.



1887

and social well-being. This book is not intended for general circulation, but for the information and encouragement of fellow-workers, and for the preservation of records that with the passing years would be increasingly hard to collect together.

At the age of thirteen, when I first saw the Hon. George Brown, Editor of *The Globe*, it became an all-controlling ambition with me to become a journalist, and later in life that ambition was realized, and seven happy years of service were spent as a member of the staff of that paper. But I had no sooner entered on a journalistic career than the neglected condition of a large class of the children of the poor, and the absence of organized effort on their behalf, impressed me so forcibly that I was unable to resist the appeal to become their friend and advocate.

In the summer of 1886, when twenty-two years of age, I began the social work that has since that time absorbed every waking moment of my life. It was not without many regrets and misgivings that I relinquished the hope of becoming a great journalist, but "there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will," and so I sorrowed, suffered and sacrificed for others, because that was the burden that was laid upon me.

J. J. KELSO.

Toronto, May 25, 1911.



Divinest self-forgetfulness, at first
A task, and then a tonic, then a need;
To greet with open hands the best and worst
And only for another's wound to bleed;
This is to see the beauty that God meant,
Wrapped round with life, ineffably content.

—*Archibald Lampman.*



CHILDREN OF THE STREET.

SAMMY AND TIM were two children of the street who literally lived by their wits. Neither of them had homes, and in battling for an existence they developed a sharpness and resourcefulness that won them much favor in the careless throng and helped them out in many a hard pinch. Sammy was of obscure parentage, about ten years of age, and with skin dark enough to suggest a mixed race. Tim was two years older; and, although both his parents were alive, they had done nothing more for him than give him birth. When only four or five years old he was called to the Children's Hospital, suffering from burns caused by a drunken mother's carelessness. The kind of home he had was soon learned by the nurses in his voluble profanity and his craving for tobacco; and when his father called and slyly gave the youngster a "chew," the good people

of the hospital were horrified. In due time he was discharged as cured, and was returned to the infamy from which his accident had given him a brief respite. In the days that followed no school ever saw Tim enter its doors. He wandered through the streets and alleys for the next two or three years, until an older youth employed him to sell papers, keeping the profits and giving Tim an occasional cent. At eight he made his first acquaintance with the Police Court, charged with stealing a small article and, although allowed to go on account of his extreme youth, was not long in getting back to the glamor and notoriety of the court, his usual sentence being ten days. A guard informed me that Tim was a great nuisance in the jail in those early days, because the law required that prisoners should wear the stripes, and there was nothing in stock that would fit a boy of eight. An ingenious turnkey got over this difficulty once by putting Tim into a pair of men's pants and then turning up the legs until they reached his waist. Of course, the boy could not walk when this was accomplished, but the rules were strictly carried out. It is an actual fact that when brought to jail to serve one of these short sentences Tim found both his father and his mother there on charges of drunkenness, and they were all amused at the meeting. Such was the "previous history" of Sammy and Tim when I first made their acquaintance.



It was in the old *World* office on King Street, in the fall of 1886. Reporters and editors were busy turning out "copy" when, at about eleven-thirty, in walked the two lads, picturesquely attired in rags and dirt. They had no further excuse for being on the street—no home to go to, newspaper money lost in gambling—and so they decided to test the generosity of the reporters. With wisdom and cunning far beyond their years, they made no special request, but proceeded to give an exhibition of gymnastic skill, matching coppers, etc., their reward being cigarettes, which they handled with the utmost *sang froid*. In half an hour when the reporters could no longer spare the time to watch their antics, the lads quietly curled themselves up on some newspapers near the grate fire and were soon fast asleep. Two nights later they returned, but were not so welcome, and when refused permission to sit by the fire they left with downcast looks. Next morning they were arrested about daybreak by a policeman, who found them asleep among some dry goods boxes, and, when brought before the court, were given short terms in jail. A month later Tim did something extra bad, and the magistrate sentenced him to three years in the Penetanguishene Reformatory, when he disappeared from the scene. Sammy was inconsolable. For nearly two years he and Tim had been fast friends, sharing their coppers, going hungry together, feasting in prosperous times upon the

best, and enjoying with rapturous delight from "the gods" the music and the drama. He wandered about alone, grieving continually for his chum; and, when again taken up by the police, begged the magistrate to send him where Tim was. This was refused, and he was advised to go and roll in the sand somewhere and he would be all right. But Toronto had no joys left for Sammy, and when two adventurous lads invited him to join them in a trip to the States they found him more than willing. Two years later news came from one of the boys that Sammy had been committed to an American reformatory; and, so far as could be learned, he has not since visited Toronto.

To return to Tim.—Three years later, while a Sunday evening supper for poor children was in progress, there was quite a commotion in one of the corners where the rougher boys had gathered—and, behold! there was Tim in the midst of them. "Yes," he said; "just got back from the Reformatory." When his legal time had expired he was given a ticket to Toronto, one dollar in cash, and placed on the train. He had no home to return to, and none but the wild street boys to welcome him and incite him to further mischief. He was the hero of the hour. How did he make a living? Within a week he was found by a constable carrying a lamp to a pawnshop; and, as it was soon ascertained that he had stolen it to get money for his lodgings, the magistrate sentenced

him to another term of three years in the Reformatory, and he was got out of the way for the time being.

What kind of a place is this Reformatory, and is it the best means of saving these motherless street boys? was a thought that continually presented itself in the days that followed. So far as ordinary indications went the institution had done very little for Tim. It had given him no mother to stop the aching of his heart, unexpressed but vaguely realized, no true companionship, no one to lovingly interpret for him the why and wherefore of it all.

Tim served his second term of three years, was again returned to Toronto, and being still without home or friends, was caught in a week or two going through the clothing in a boarding house. Since then he has served numerous terms in jail and in the Central Prison; and as he is a comparatively young man, he will undoubtedly serve many more unless he gets accidentally killed. His offences are of a petty larceny order, so the chances of his being given one long term are remote.

SOCIETY'S ATTITUDE.

In a newspaper experience of several years, and dealing largely with criminal matters, hundreds of cases were brought under my observation in which unfortunate children, born and bred in crime, were, by crude methods of punishment,

forced into an offensive and defensive attitude until, character-forming and hardening under adverse conditions, they became criminals for life and enemies of the society that neglected and scorned them. Many of the neglected children of those early days are to-day, and have been for years, well known and desperate criminals, terrorizing the community, and costing, by their depredations and by the enforced maintenance of police, judiciary, prisons, and penitentiaries, many thousands of dollars. Notwithstanding all that has been accomplished in the past twenty-five years, this sad and expensive waste of child-life in our large cities still goes on.

These and other experiences with neglected children led to a feeling of deep compassion and an earnest desire to do something definite for the protection of the unfortunate waifs of the street. In the five years that followed their stories were turned into "copy" to the extent of hundreds of columns, and this in time led to definite action.

TWO SHIVERING CHILDREN.

Another first experience along the same line: Going down Yonge Street one cold night in November, of the same year—1886—two shivering and crying children were met—a brother and sister. They were afraid to go home, they said, for they only had fifteen cents, and they had been promised a whipping unless they collected at least twenty-five cents.—Begging that night was

not as good a business as usual. What was to be done with them? "Poor little wretches!" the crowd said, and passed on. Nearly two hours were spent in vainly trying to get them into some institution, until at last the Salvation Army agreed to take them. In that hour the idea of a CHILDREN'S SHELTER was born. Enquiry proved that the parents were hopelessly given over to drink and general depravity, and that moral considerations found in them no sympathetic response. They were summoned to the Police Court for "neglect," but such a thing as removing children from the control even of the worst of parents was not then in vogue. They took the children home with them, and the begging continued. In due time the boy was sufficiently advanced in crime to be sent to the Reformatory, and for twenty years Mike has been known to the police, the magistrate, and the prison officials as one of their best customers, being almost continuously in trouble of one sort or another. His sister was in time committed to the Mercer Reformatory, not only a hopeless case herself, but the ringleader and destroyer of many companions.

Talking with the police, they said such youngsters gave them much trouble, as there was no systematic method of dealing with them. When they got into the police station, as they frequently did, there was nothing for it but to lock them up in the cheerless cell, since none of the existing orphanages would receive them, owing to their filthy condition, both inside and out.

THE CALL TO ACTION.

Investigation at that time also revealed indescribably shocking moral conditions among the little girls who thronged the newspaper alleys and sold papers in the neighborhood of saloons, theatres, and down-town thoroughfares until late in the night. Everyone deplored these things, but no one seemed to know exactly what should be done. And so the message came, written in the skies: "Give up ambition, turn aside from cherished hopes, and plead for these little ones who perish by the wayside, in a land abounding in Christian activities."



AN OLD WHITE HORSE.

THE following week, in November, 1886, a letter was sent to the Toronto *World* by Mr. John K. Macdonald, the well-known dry goods merchant, then quite a young man, referring to the case of an old and worn-out white horse daily to be seen on the streets, and expressing regret that there was no society for the prevention of cruelty. Mr. John Maclean, city editor, handed over the communication to the writer, a member of the staff, with the remark: "Here is something for you to advocate." A favorable comment was inserted, with the result that \$2 was received in the business office the next day from an anonymous correspondent. A day or two after the acknowledgment was made in the paper \$5 was received, and the fund kept on growing, until \$74 had been accumulated.

On January 15, 1887, an invitation was received from the Canadian Institute to read a paper on some social reform issue. This was accepted, and the date was set for Saturday evening, February 19th. The following extract from the printed proceedings of the Institute will be of interest, marking, as it does, the first launching of the Humane and Children's Aid movement in Ontario:

CANADIAN INSTITUTE. FEB. 19, 1887.

Mr. J. J. Kelso read a paper on "The Necessity of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in Toronto."

He pointed out that there was no society of the kind at present in existence in Toronto, and he proposed the establishment of one as a general humane association, having before it the following among other objects:

To stop cruelty to children; to rescue them from vicious influences and remedy their condition; the beating of animals, overloading street cars, overloading wagons, working old horses, driving galled and disabled animals; to introduce drinking fountains, better laws, better methods of horseshoeing, humane literature into schools and homes; to induce children to be humane; everybody to practice and teach kindness to animals and others.

As a humanizing, educating, and refining influence, he believed there was no better society in existence than this would prove. Its foundation would rest upon a religious, but undenominational, basis. It would include in its membership young and old, rich and poor, Catholics and Protestants, and all could unite in the unselfish and ennobling work of alleviating and removing human and animal suffering.

On motion of Mr. William Houston, seconded by Dr. P. H. Bryce, it was resolved, "That in the opinion of the Institute the formation in this city of a society for the prevention of cruelty would be conducive to the interests of the public morality, and this meeting desires to express its sympathy with the object contemplated."

Among those present at the meeting were Dr. W. H. Ellis (chairman), Prof. R. Ramsay Wright, Dr. George Kennedy, James Bain, jr., Alan Macdougall, C.E., Dr. A. Hamilton, J. T. B. Ives, W. A. Douglas, R. W. Young, and Mr. Elvins.

ORGANIZATION FAVORED.

The first persons to call and express their interest and willingness to help were Miss Dupont, principal of the Young Ladies' School, and Mrs.

C. B. Grasett. Both ladies are still living, and have been continuously active in promoting the work. The first known subscription of five dollars came from Mr. J. H. Pearce, wholesale druggist, since deceased. Among others who at this period gave much encouragement might be mentioned Beverley Jones, Mayor W. H. Howland, Police Inspector Archibald, and Mr. John Macdonald, the dry goods merchant, whose son had sent in the letter about the ill-treated horse.

Here is a copy of the first circular issued, calling a meeting of citizens:

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY.

DEAR SIR,—You are invited to be present at a Public Meeting in Shaftesbury Hall, on Thursday Evening, Feb. 24th, to consider the matter of organizing in Toronto a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. Addresses will be delivered by Mayor Howland, Canon Dumoulin, and other prominent citizens. Mr. John Macdonald will preside.

There is need for such a Society, and, as it is desirable that the Inaugural Meeting should be a large and enthusiastic one, you would aid considerably by interesting your friends in the movement and securing their attendance.

Ladies are particularly invited, and their co-operation is solicited.

J. J. KELSO,

February 21st, 1887.

Secretary, *pro tem.*

TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY.

The meeting proved quite successful, and organization was unanimously decided upon. The name "Humane Society" was chosen, because

its mission was to be broadly educational—better laws, better methods, the development of the humane spirit in all the affairs of life. The wisdom of this choice has been fully justified by the splendid and varied work of that society since its organization.

FIRST OFFICERS ELECTED.

The following week an organization meeting was held, and the *Empire* gave this item:

HUMANE SOCIETY ORGANIZED.

A meeting of the committee to organize a Humane Society was held in the Canadian Institute at 4 p.m. yesterday, Ald. Boustead presiding. The following officers were elected: Patron, Lieutenant-Governor Robinson; honorary president, Mayor Howland; vice-presidents, Hon. S. H. Blake, Prof. Goldwin Smith, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and Mr. W. R. Brock; treasurer, Lieut. J. I. Davidson; secretary, J. J. Kelso.

Council—Messrs. Thomas McGaw, James H. Pearce, Rev. Dr. Briggs, Henry O'Brien, Ald. Boustead, Rev. Canon Dumoulin, Elias Rogers, Dr. Caniff, F. E. Galbraith, Mervyn Mackenzie, J. D. Nasmith, Dr. P. H. Bryce, Ald. Harvie, J. K. Macdonald, Mrs. C. B. Grasett, Mrs. Robert Parr, Mrs. John Harvie, Mrs. J. B. Willmott, Mrs. Dr. Clapp, Miss M. C. Elliot, Mrs. Brett, Mrs. W. B. McMurrich, Mrs. McMaster, Mrs. Dr. W. T. Aikins.

DRINKING TROUGHS.

At that time there were only six public drinking fountains for horses in Toronto, and three of

these were owned and controlled by saloon-keepers. When attention was called to this, Ald. Baxter at once moved in the City Council that \$2,000 be appropriated for this work, and there are to-day over two hundred fountains in all parts of the city. The individual troughs for dogs now extensively used in the city were introduced by the society some years later.

SPECIAL OFFICER APPOINTED.

So many complaints of cruelty were received that it was soon found absolutely necessary to have a man specially appointed for the work of investigation. An appeal was made to the police commissioners for a constable to be set apart as humane officer, and the *Mail* of July 27, 1887, gave the following item concerning the proposition:

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SECURES THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER FOR THAT WORK.

The Toronto Humane Society has succeeded in having a police constable appointed to look after cases of cruelty to animals exclusively. At a meeting of the society held a short time ago it was decided to have an inspector appointed, and the secretary was instructed to communicate with the chief constable and make a proposition that a man be detailed for that work. He did so, and received the following communication:

" July 25, 1887.

" *J. J. Kelso, Secretary, Toronto Humane Society.*

" In *re* services of a constable for the prevention of cruelty.

" SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 15th inst., I now have the pleasure of advising you that the Board of Police Commissioners have consented to a constable being especially employed for the prevention of cruelty on the terms proposed. I will accordingly detail a suitable man for that purpose, and will be glad to confer with you on the subject of his duties.

" H. J. GRASETT,

" Chief Constable."

This arrangement has held good to the present time, and not only Chief Grasett, but all the inspectors and sergeants have been warm supporters of the Humane Society.

LITERATURE ISSUED.

The publicity given to the Humane movement made many friends for the new society. Within the year an office had been taken at 103 Bay Street, completely furnished and clerk employed, and over \$2,000 had been freely contributed. Miss Gwynne gave \$500, and later \$1,000 more. This generosity prepared the way for extensive educational work. Ten thousand pamphlets on Bands of Mercy were printed, in addition to many other leaflets, and Dr. J. George Hodgins, undertook the preparation of "Aims and Objects," the most complete humane publication ever issued, contain-

ing 242 pages of information on animal and child life, appropriately illustrated. Of this book ten thousand copies were printed, and it has had a world-wide influence in promulgating kindness and thoughtfulness.

AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION.

In October, 1887, the annual meeting of the American Humane Association was held in Rochester, N.Y. Four delegates attended from Toronto—Rev. Canon Dumoulin, W. R. Brock, J. J. Kelso, and J. H. Pearce. They went with the ambition and determination to bring the next convention to Toronto; and, as a result of enthusiastic advocacy, the invitation was unanimously accepted, the association meeting in Toronto the following year.

THE FIRST JUVENILE COURT LAW.

Much help and counsel were given in those days by many officials and philanthropic workers, including such men as Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, Inspector Archibald, City Clerk Blevins, Sergeant Vaughan, and Beverley Jones. The latter, through his legal experience and great love for children, was particularly sympathetic. He undertook the preparation of the first act dealing with neglected children, and this was passed by the Ontario Legislature in March, 1888. It provided that neglected children under 14 could be committed to any society or institu-

tion willing to receive them, and authorized the appointment of a special commissioner to try youthful offenders, apart from adults—the first beginning of a juvenile court law. Referring to this, Mr. Jones forwarded a book of notes with the following letter :

Toronto, Sept. 17, 1907.

My Dear Mr. Kelso:—You probably remember the first meeting we had relative to the proper methods of dealing with juvenile offenders. This was in the Fall of 1886, nineteen years ago. At that time I read a paper on the subject. The Honorable S. H. Blake was in the chair. I have just come across my original notes and as I want to leave you something, I "give, devise and bequeath" these to you, as they are pretty much the foundation of the present improved system of dealing with children. You were the instigator of that meeting, and may therefore find these notes of some interest and value.

Yours truly,

BEVERLEY JONES.

CHILDREN'S COURT.

Toronto at this time (1889) came near starting a Children's Court, with commissioners specially appointed. Three leading citizens were approached, and they agreed to serve without compensation. The following notice of motion was presented in the City Council, but it did not get any further, action being deferred :

COMMISSIONERS TO TRY JUVENILES.

Ald. McMillan submitted a notice of motion appointing William H. Howland, John Boyd and Beverley Jones as "commissioners, each with the powers of a police magistrate, to hear and determine complaints against juvenile offenders apparently under the age of sixteen years." This is in accordance with the provisions of an Act (51 Vic., chap. 40) passed at the recent session of the Local Legislature at the request of the Toronto Humane Society, entitled, "An Act for the Protection and Reformation of Neglected Children."

"There is the heart of a hero in every boy if we can only turn it to noble purposes."



AFLOAT ON LIFE'S VOYAGE.

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND.

IN journalism there is ample opportunity to become familiar with social conditions in a large city—the realistic side of life. Daily attendance at the police courts, nightly visits to the stations to write up the crimes of the day, attendance at inquests, murder trials and special investigations of vice, either deadens the sensibilities and creates cynical indifference or it awakens a great longing in the heart to be of service in uplifting humanity to a cleaner and happier order of things. If in the latter case, the little children in their helplessness and mute suffering must constitute an irresistible appeal. They are the innocent victims of all social injustice. Crowded in wretched hovels in back streets and lanes, they saw and learned but little that could make them better than their fathers. There were no playgrounds, and only a yearly Sunday school excursion to brighten their lives; and, studying these conditions, the idea of the **FRESH AIR FUND** occurred. Why not take them to the lakeside parks, the island, the country and village home, so that joy might be unconfined, and perhaps some life-long impressions gained from contact with nature, and association with good men and women who wished to be of service! Inspired with this thought, the following circular letter was sent to over two hundred citizens on May 15, 1888:



HAPPINESS THEIR HERITAGE.

FRESH AIR FUND FOR CHILDREN.

Dear Sir,

A movement is on foot to start in Toronto a "Children's Fresh Air Fund," for the purpose of giving the neglected class of children a number of outings in the warm weather.

It is proposed to have several boat excursions, and a plentiful supply of refreshments, music and games. The good that may result from these excursions is almost incalculable. By a comparatively small expenditure of money a ray of sunshine may be thrown into these young hearts that will remain through life.

A meeting to discuss the project is called for Monday afternoon next, at 4 o'clock, in Richmond Hall. Will you kindly endeavor to make it a success by your presence and influence?

Respectfully yours,

J. J. KELSO.

ORGANIZATION MEETING.

The following item, preserved from the *News* of May 21, 1888, gives an account of the launching of the scheme:

A FRESH AIR FUND.

TO GIVE EXCURSIONS AND HAPPINESS TO THE LITTLE POOR
ONES.

A very good scheme for the furnishing of some pleasure for the hundreds of poor little children who live in the slums of the city and who have no enjoyments, was inaugurated, at a meeting held in Richmond Hall this afternoon.

Mr. J. J. Kelso, secretary of the Toronto Humane Society, presided, and others present were, Rev. W. R. Parker, Rev. W. Patterson, Ald. Harry Piper, Ald. R. J. Fleming, Ald. Alfred McDougall, J. Ross Robertson, Peter McIntyre and a number of ladies.

Mr. Kelso explained the proposed method which is to form a Fresh Air Fund by means of which the children could be treated to excursions into the country and on the water, and given a square meal and lots of fun.

Other addresses were made and a committee appointed to formulate the scheme and report.

FIRST FRESH AIR EXCURSION.

The first excursion under the auspices of the newly-formed society took place to Lorne Park, on June, 27, 1888, about four hundred children being collected in St. John's Ward by Miss How and other mission workers. The procession down Yonge Street to the boat attracted much public attention. It was headed by the fife band of the Boys' Home and two well-known philanthropists, W. H. Howland and William Gooderham. Other excursions followed, until two thousand five hundred of the city's poorest children had been given a day's outing. In the five years following over thirty thousand happy children participated in its benefits. An indebtedness of \$22 was incurred in organizing the Fund, but before the first meeting was concluded \$90 was subscribed and paid over. The first sum—\$10—came from Ald. Harry Piper; the second—\$50—from J. Ross Robertson. Throughout its history no one was personally solicited for money. The excur-

sions were planned without regard to expense, and yet there never was a year in which all the money required was not cheerfully sent in. Mr. Howland, when Mayor, received contributions at his office, and Mr. E. F. Clarke, for the four years of his occupancy of the civic chair, was an equally ardent friend of this cause.

Concerning the movement the *Telegram* said:

Too much cannot be said in praise of the Fresh Air Fund movement. It appeals to the tender sympathy of all who love God's poor. And the grand success of this first excursion must be sufficient reward for the self sacrifice of those ladies and gentlemen who will appreciate the beautiful words coming from the heart of the Lover of little children: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto Me."

BRITISH FRESH AIR FUND.

It is an interesting fact that the great work now being done in Great Britain in providing fresh air outings and holiday homes for poor children had its origin in Toronto. During the summer of 1890 Mr. John Kirk visited this country, and while in Toronto attended some fresh air excursions. Speaking of the work as it is conducted in England, Mr. Kirk, now "Sir John," wrote as follows:

"Sunday school excursions were no novelty to me long before I paid my first memorable visit to Canada and the States in the year 1890; but I confess that my experience of the working of the Fresh Air Fund in Toronto, under Mr. Kelso, came to me as an inspiration, which was further deepened as I passed south and saw

what was done in the other great cities. I realized that the press were able and willing to do great things for the children, and with the funds provided, those specially interested and working amongst the slum children could get them out of congested districts into the fresh air either by the lake or seaside or in the open country. It happened on my return that I met Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, who had some idea of starting a Fresh Air Fund in his newly established "Weekly." He asked me if I would prepare some simple scheme for giving effect to it. The English Fresh Air Fund thus inaugurated fifteen years ago, and which may be said in its particular form to have received its inception on board the splendid steamer sailing around Lake Ontario, has been the means of giving a day's holiday in the country to no less than a million and a half of children from the crowded courts and alleys of the thirty-six biggest cities of the United Kingdom."

POOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS.

During these years a Christmas entertainment for poor children was also carried on, and about fifteen thousand Santa Claus gifts were sent to children, with the co-operation of city mission workers. Christmas dinners to large masses of children are not now so necessary or desirable; conditions have greatly changed for the better, the true ideal being to plant the Christmas spirit in every home, and have parents and children celebrate the joyous festival together.

Among the many good friends who gave their assistance in making the Fresh Air Fund a success must be mentioned City Missionary Hall, Rev. H. C. Dixon, Miss How, Mrs. Stuart Johnston, Dr. Harley Smith, Rev. J. E. Starr, Peter McIntyre, Ald. Harry Piper, J. Ross Robertson,

and Alfred Sandham. Several of these friends now conduct independent Fresh Air Funds.

The following story from *The Empire* of Dec. 25, 1889, is only one of many that helped to create interest in the Children's cause:

"FEED YE MY LAMBS."

A GREAT GATHERING OF POOR CHILDREN IN SHAFTESBURY
HALL LAST NIGHT.

Christmas comes but once a year,
And when it comes it brings good cheer.

In days gone by the poets have embodied truth and rhythm in their heart-stirring verses. Many a heart, over the melodious stanzas of a well-written verse, has been raised to merriment, and many a drooping spirit has been lifted from sadness to joy and harmony. This truly may be said of Toronto. In its rapid development and growth happily there has been no downing of the afflicted and no turning of the cold shoulder to the oppressed. The heart of the city goes forth to all charities, and there has been none left without aid or sympathy, unless it be the absolutely undeserving. Christmas is an appropriate time in which to

GAUGE THE BROAD HEART

and beneficent tendencies of the people. There are poor and rich in the community. The poor predominate. The rich and the middle class help the lowly in the onward path and in the struggle for existence. The distribution of wealth may be unequal. The mob and the mass may growl under the voracity of capitalists. But men of money as if by Divine edict, drop one by one into the ranks of charity, and become the able upholders of the poverty-stricken. Whether such is the divine implantation of Providence or the happy whim of nature cannot be said, but at all events such are the

PRACTICAL AND HAPPY EVIDENCES

of modern civilization and of Toronto's growth. May it year by year continue, widen and strengthen in its sphere.

No happier instance of the charitable and beneficent instinct of the people could be had on a Christmas Eve than at Shaftesbury Hall last night. No better instance could be had all the world over of the poor supping at the table of charity and the public beneficent spirit. Fifteen hundred happy and merry, joyous, romping children banqueted at the festive board. But it was not only a feast physical, but an intellectual and humorous treat. Christian workers feasted them, cared for them and looked after them, and they were all as bright and happy as they could be at home, even although they had all homes to go to, though it is most likely they had not. It was an event

IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEARTS

that will remain there for months and weeks and years. Last night's event in Shaftesbury Hall was indeed the charitable event of Toronto's Christmas, and if the proverb be true that it is "better to give than to receive," last night's fete was perhaps the event par excellence of the Yuletide. This was the notice that prompted all the gathering:

CHILDREN'S

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

In Shaftesbury Hall,

on

TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 24, AT 6.30.

Panorama, Music and Refreshments. This

Ticket will Admit one Child.

J. J. KELSO, Sec.-Treas.

Many a young one's heart was cheered by the invitation and the workers of the

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND

left no stone unturned to have all deserving youngsters present. In addition to those who had got invitations, no little one was refused admittance. The result was that before the feasting and merriment commenced at seven o'clock the body of the hall and the first gallery had as many of the juvenile fraternity as it could hold. Fully 1,600 were present. All were happy as could be. A bag of candies and cakes was handed to each on entering. For this great distribution a staff of ladies were in attendance. The stock from which all was taken included:

350 dozen buns.
300 pounds fruit cakes.
450 pounds candies.
4 barrels apples.
100 pounds raisins.

To the philanthropist a more pleasant and gratifying sight than the assembled children could not be had, and while they feasted and waited longing eyes were cast at the screen which was to disclose the wonders and marvels of the evening. The buzz of voices was entertaining, but never did it approach noisiness or discordance. All the children seemed to acknowledge and appreciate the fact that an effort was being made to entertain them. Enclosed in each "baggy" was a neat Christmas card, bearing the imprint of a tiny maiden holding in her hand a basket of flowers, and bearing the following words:

These roses that I send you
Will quickly fade away,
But the love that I send with them
Will last for aye and aye,
And though this Christmas morning,
Many presents you receive,
That none bring better wishes
I trust you will believe.

And on the other side of the card were the following words of welcome and friendship, a propos of the day:

Presented to each dear Child, with
Best Wishes for

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

And a Long Future of Happiness, by the

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND.

Amongst those who assisted Mr. Kelso in superintending the children were: Miss E. Y. Sams, Mr. Edward Taylor, city relief officer; Mr. Hall, city missionary; Mr. H. C. Dixon, conductor of the cottage meetings, and Miss How and Mr. Gowler. At half-past seven the Spadina avenue amateur band struck up a mirthful melody, after which the children sang in choruses the beautiful hymns, Shall We Gather at the River? and Jesus Loves Me. Then followed

A MOST DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT,

by means of the stereopticon, the pictures being all of a humorous character. The entertainment lasted over an hour, and it is needless to say immensely delighted the young persons. Each on leaving the hall about ten o'clock was provided with another bag of fruit and cake and the following verse neatly imprinted on a card:

FORWARD.

Standing still is dangerous ever,
Toil is meant for Christians now!
Let there be when evening cometh,
Honest sweat upon thy brow,
And the Master shall come smiling
At the setting of the sun,
Saying, as He pays the wages,
"Good, and faithful one, well done."

Later the following explanation, which is worth noting, appeared in the *Empire*.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT.

With reference to the children's entertainment on Christmas, Mr. Kelso desires to state that very few of the 1,800 children present were poor in the sense of being dependent on the community. The idea was to provide a seasonable treat for those little ones who, while they get lots to eat, seldom get luxuries or magic lantern exhibitions. Anything like making the children feel that they were there as a charity was carefully avoided, and this was evident in the fact that not a slice of turkey or roast beef was distributed, while nearly 800 pounds of the best fruit cake and buns and 400 pounds of candy were handed out. As a factor in the enjoyment, of any children, whether rich or poor, these articles will be admitted to be indispensable. Then each ticket read "Children's Christmas Entertainment," making no reference to their condition in life. The children's fresh air and entertainment fund was established to give healthy enjoyment to the children of the poor, and those who know anything of its work cannot accuse it of pauperizing." On the contrary, it has fulfilled a noble mission in bringing happiness to the cheerless lives of many young people, and has given them a hope and ambition which before was wanting.





WHAT OF THEIR FUTURE?

STUDYING SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

THE year 1889 was one of much study into the Causes of Juvenile Delinquency and the laws and machinery then in existence for the protection of children. Many columns were written on this subject, the aid of brother-journalists was enlisted, until the whole country was made fully aware of the hardships and injustices under which the children of the poor and the careless labored. Much of the experience necessary for a successful educational campaign was gained in hearing from the lips of the children themselves the pathetic tragedy of their lives.

CHILDREN AND STREET TRADES.

A movement that had long been under consideration was next brought to a successful issue, namely, the regulation by public ordinance of street trading by children. It was estimated that between six and seven hundred boys and about one hundred girls were sent out on the streets by drunken and avaricious parents to earn money by the precarious selling of newspapers, pencils, etc., more frequently using this occupation as a cloak for begging and pilfering. Many of these children were mere infants, who, although fit subjects for the nursery, were, through this thrusting out on the streets, familiarized with all the vices and

profanity of the worst society. The older boys formed themselves into clubs, living in low lodging-houses and training younger lads to sell for them and also to steal. Ultimately a large proportion of these lads found their way into prison, since they learned no industry and could not well continue to sell papers after seventeen. The matter was brought before the police commissioners in October, 1889, the following account being given in the *Mail*:

NEWSBOYS.

TO BE LICENSED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT—GIRLS NOT TO RUN THE STREETS.

A deputation from the Toronto Humane Society appeared before the Board of Police Commissioners yesterday afternoon and asked that a by-law be adopted licensing and regulating newsboys and prohibiting girls from selling newspapers or small wares on the public streets. The deputation consisted of Messrs. James H. Pearce, Beverley Jones, Dr. J. George Hodgins, Ald. McDougall and J. J. Kelso, and the Commissioners were Mayor Clarke, Judge McDougall and Police Magistrate Denison, with Chief Constable Grasett as Secretary. The need for some restriction of this kind has long been felt by those who have given any attention to the subject. Many of the children running the streets with newspapers were growing up in vice, and there was no check upon them whatever until they ultimately got beyond control and became outcasts to society.

The views of the deputation were voiced by Mr. Kelso. He stated that some two years ago he became interested in the subject through hearing police officials complain of the large number of children being ruined through the evil example of the streets. There was no law on the subject, and he waited on the Legislation Committee of

the City Council, and through their instrumentality secured the insertion of a clause in the Revised Statutes directing Police Commissioners of cities to regulate and control children engaged as vendors of newspapers and smallwares, or as bootblacks. In accordance with this legislation a by-law was drawn up which they now asked the Commissioners to adopt. Mr. Kelso gave a number of strong arguments in favor of the measure, and pointed out that he was unable to find any city in the United States where girls were allowed to sell papers on the streets.

In a conversation which followed the Commissioners expressed themselves as in sympathy with the measure, and agreed to adopt it when revised by the City Solicitor.

LICENSING BY-LAW.

"Whereas it is deemed expedient for the better protection of public morality to regulate and control children engaged as vendors of newspapers, or as bootblacks; therefore the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Toronto, enact as follows:

"(1) From and after the passage of this by-law no child under sixteen years of age or apparently under the age of sixteen, shall act or be engaged as a vendor of newspapers or as a bootblack, unless and until such child shall have obtained from the office of the Chief Constable in the City of Toronto, a license authorizing such child to act as a vendor of newspapers and small wares, or as a bootblack, within the limits of the said city.

"(2) No boy apparently under the age of eight years shall receive a license or be permitted to engage in any or either of the callings above specified; nor shall any girl receive a license for any or either of these occupations.

"(3) No such license shall be granted to any child whose age at the time of granting of such license does not exceed eight years. Every child so licensed shall while so engaged have and exhibit conspicuously on his breast a badge, to be furnished him by the said Commissioners with such license.

"(4) In case any child, holding such license as aforesaid, has been convicted by any Court of competent jurisdiction of any felony, or of being associated with thieves or of obtaining a livelihood through crime while he is the holder thereof, then his said license may, on proof thereof satisfactory to the said Commissioners of Police, be revoked, but the said Commissioners may at any time thereafter restore the said license to such child.

"(5) Any child who sells papers or acts as bootblack, and who may be found guilty of any infraction of the provisions of this by-law within the said city, may, on conviction therefor, by or before the Police Magistrate of the said City, or any Justice, or Justices or Judge having jurisdiction for the trial of juvenile offenders, under chapter 39 of statutes passed in 1888, be fined a sum not exceeding \$2 and costs, and in default of payment thereof, and there being no distress found of the goods and chattels of the offender out of which such distress can be levied, may be committed to any Industrial School or Charitable Institute willing to receive the same, or to a House of Correction should such be provided; and in the event of such child proving incorrigible he may be committed to the common gaol of the city for any period not exceeding two days, with or without hard labor, in the discretion of the said Police Magistrate or other convicting Justice or Justices, provided that there shall be provision in the said gaol at the time of such committal, so that such child shall be kept separate and apart from offenders likely to prove injurious to such child."

The Magistrate spoke of the necessity for securing more accommodation in the way of Industrial Homes for this class of children. The School for Boys at Mimico was full and there was no Girls' Industrial School. He admitted the truth of the statement that schools were better than gaols, and thought there should be more accommodation in this line.



HOMES OF THE POOR.



UNWHOLESOME OCCUPATION.

CITY WAIFS.

ONE of the best articles on the city waif problem written about this time came from the pen of Mr. J. S. Willison, now so well known as managing editor of the *Evening News*. It appeared in the *Globe* of October 19, 1888, under the title "Observations":

THE CHILDREN.

In the speech made by Mr. W. H. Howland at the meeting at which he was first put forward as a candidate for the Mayoralty of Toronto, he spoke of the "wild children of the city." The phrase was an apt characterization of the poor, wretched, desolate waifs who are thrown upon the streets from homes of vice and drunkenness; the offspring of weakness and wickedness; the progeny of the sisterhood of shame; the children of parents whom misfortune dogs all down through their hard, sad careers. For not all of these children come out from the haunts of vice. Many of them are thrust upon the streets from homes where gaunt want holds empire, and parents are smitten by disease and affliction or struggle hopelessly to gather the bread of life for the little ones God has committed to their keeping. We are a prosperous, self-satisfied community, and apt to think that these distressing pictures of youthful crime and misery and vagrancy that glare out from the literature of the slums are all laid in remote centres of population, in the great cities of the United States or of the Old Land, and that we have no duty pressing on us to concern ourselves with those problems or to seek and save the wild children, for we know not that they are at our very elbows and are being fashioned into hardened criminals by the methods of treatment which prevail even in this young and liberal and advanced community.

HUMANE WORK.

No body of men are engaged in a nobler mission than the workers of the Humane Societies. The proceedings and deliberations of the delegates now sitting in convention at the Normal School building deserve our very earnest attention, as their work should command our heartiest co-operation. Mr. W. R. Brock and his associates in the local movement are inspired by high motives, and are entitled to our generous sympathies. They are not cheap philanthropists, merely hunting for popularity by easy methods. They are not making a pretence of concern for the public welfare in order to making a living for themselves. It is a movement that has nothing in it for any one except the children who are helped to clean lives and pure surroundings, and the dumb animals that are protected from brutality and cruelty. We have hardly yet risen to a true appreciation of the value and dignity of this movement. It may be that sometimes movements of this nature develop into petty officiousness and meddlesomeness, and that by false methods a public sentiment hostile to noble endeavor is aroused. But no such charge can lie against the directors of the local movement, for their wisdom and prudence is as commendable as their zeal and energy.

A LESSON.

That was an impressive declaration of one of the delegates, that not only could you be cruel to a child's body but you could be cruel to a child's mind and cruel to a child's future. They tell solemn truth when they declare that no child whose only crime is poverty should be sent to a criminal institution. And they ought to be heard. Take the case cited by Mr. Kelso: A boy thirteen years of age was arrested for vagrancy. He was put into the prison van with fourteen adult prisoners and sent to gaol. There for two days he was confined in a cell with twenty others, probably most of them of the lowest and most degraded type of humanity. What an awful experience that must have been to a child who seems never to have known the touch and contact of positive

crime. It may be that marks were left on his life that will never be eradicated. Possibly there was marred for all good purposes a life that would have developed in noble ambitions and beneficent achievement. May it not be that the State is making criminals as fast as poverty, as fast as vile and impure associations? Put a boy through the experiences of the one whose case Mr. Kelso has illustrated, and no one has any business to be surprised if he should turn out to be an unredeemable scoundrel. Not a few of our gaols and prisons are graduating schools for criminals. Our methods of dealing with young offenders are often, sadly often, vicious and cruel. The consequences go down through succeeding lines of criminals to the third and fourth generations.

REFORM METHODS.

It seems hardly possible that any system of State discipline can be applied to children with the best results. For many, many years the child must carry the mark of State guardianship. The memory will go with him for years and will rise up to humiliate and perhaps to threaten in the very glow of life's best triumphs. Who forgets that a boy has been in the reformatory, and who in after years cares to inquire into the circumstances of the boy's youth and to excuse him when his record is whispered about by envious rivals and malicious gossips? No reformatory could do for the homeless children the work of the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania. According to reports made to the Humane Convention this society places in private families throughout the State the doorstep waifs, the orphans, the children forsaken and rejected who fall upon the support of the community. The gaol or the reformatory are not allowed to cast their shadows over their young lives. But they are reared well and honorably. They know the blessedness of family relations. The danger of surrender to inherited tendencies is not irritated and aggravated by constant contact with evil associations and vicious conditions. No discipline can be so potent as that of the family, and probably no better

plan for the rescue of the little ones abandoned to the world has ever been devised than that of the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania.

OUR OWN.

But there is a work to do among the children who are not abandoned to the mercy of strangers. Few of us know of the foul retreats of vice and want that exist even in Toronto. The hundreds who were taken out on the fresh air excursions during the summer months are now face to face with a long, cold winter. Many of them will need warmth even worse than they needed fresh air and lessons in cleanliness. Many of them will have to stand on the street corners all through bitter winter days selling papers to a public that often treat them coarsely and jostle them roughly and hardly ever stop to think that they are human, that they feel, that the piercing winter air is fingering for their very vitals, that they are weak and faint from hunger. There are other homes whence the pallid, shivering, ragged children will never come upon the streets during all the winter, but there will be present always cruel want and patient suffering and perhaps even the gaunt spectre of starvation. There is more occasion among us for our charity and our sympathy than most of us know, and we rush on in the keen pursuit of our various ambitions while want pleads at our elbows and children escape from hunger into crime. It is not that we are hard or indifferent. We are busy. Always busy. We respond readily enough when we are put face to face with inflexible facts. But we are sceptical about the appeals that are made to our sympathies and we have no time for independent investigation. Nor do we believe that even in Toronto there are mere children on the streets committed to utter profligacy, and of whom stories — bad, wretched stories—could be told, true as Christ's Gospel, that would shock us out of our ease and doubt and indifference, and leave us infinitely sadder and wiser too than most of us will ever become. We can well afford to give our earnest, anxious attention to the teachings of the Humane Convention.

OBSERVER.

KIT'S ABLE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Another writer who gave valuable assistance in making the wants of the children known was "Kit," whose *Woman's Kingdom in the Mail and Empire* was, and still is, so popular. The following article is from her pen:

THE CHILDREN OF THE POOR.

A law stronger than all human laws says:—"Thou art thy brother's keeper." It is a law that somehow has the knack of rushing to one's mind when one meets a group of poor children, dirty, uncared for, miserable little mortals, who cannot help being on this earth that is so hideous a home to them. The huge problem of how best to treat the mighty army of the helpless will, I think, forever remain unsolved. Many theories are advanced, but few are practical. In such a vast city as London it is heart-breaking to look at the children and know that willing to help as you may be you are absolutely helpless. If you spent your whole life and the wealth of a Croesus, you could only relieve one little district—the great army of famishing, neglected, homeless, ill-treated waifs outside your small sphere would still clamor shrilly for bread and shelter. There they are, these little ones, and we cannot put them into lethal chambers, as we do our surplus dogs, and so get rid of them. "Thou art thy brother's keeper!"—awful words, that stare us in the face, no matter which way we turn; that come to us on our deathbeds, making us long frantically for one day's health, that we might succor even one neglected child; so that one little voice might speak a good word for us in our desperate need. There is not a woman living who has or had children of her own but will feel heart-sore at the sight of a poor street waif; not a mother but will long to snatch up the dirty little Johnnie she sees shambling about the streets long after her own boys are snugly tucked up in bed, and carry him off and bathe him and comfort him with lots of hot coffee and buns, and watch

him stuffing his famishing little body with good things. Perhaps there is no more exquisite pleasure for some women than to relieve in some way the wants of poor children. It is a genuine delight to watch Johnnie gobble his delicious brown bun, and gulp down his mug of milk, at one draught, and then to stow away what he cannot eat in his ragged pockets or frowsy shirt-front. It is not an unmixed delight either, for you feel how impotent you are, how unable to give Johnnie buns and milk every day, and you know you will come on him two days after lying asleep perhaps under a market cart, with the same wan look in his face that makes him the very incarnation of want, and the hopelessness of it all sickens you, and you turn away with a heartache, and looking up at the great buildings of the city, noting its wealth and power, you gaze beyond to the heaven that tops it all, and wonder wearily why such things be. But this is in London, not here in our bright young city, where the homeless children are more thought of and cared for than any other city of its size on this continent.

Childhood draws out the generous love of men and women, and in that way not only guards itself, but blesses those who give. Somehow this year the Children's Aid Society and its branch the Fresh Air Fund are not in as flourishing a condition as they might be. I have the latest report of the Fresh Air Fund before me, and I will give a few facts therefrom, for I want to help the children if I can.

To Mr. J. J. Kelso belongs the honor of having introduced this most necessary work, which is now a branch of the larger work, the Children's Aid Society. This society does not wish to solicit funds personally; it merely asks that all will send their contributions to the secretary, 32 Church-street. The Fund is intended for boys under ten, girls under twelve, and mothers, who, having their children at the picnic, are in this way relieved from home cares and can go also. The rules are rigid, and will be enforced in order to limit the trips to the classes intended to be benefited. There were close on 9,000 excursionists last year. 15,000 lunches, in which 800 gallons of milk were used. Such are the brief facts: Now for the

objects of the Children's Aid Society. First, it strives to give each child some education. Secondly, it tries to provide a "children's friend" at the Police Court, and to have a separate place of confinement while awaiting trial—how necessary this is anyone who has at all studied the question will easily determine. Thirdly, there is a temporary shelter provided for neglected and abandoned children, which shelter I visited yesterday, and about which we will talk presently. Next, the society hopes to help newsboys to a better future; to keep boys under 16 out of those moral pest-houses—lodgings; to introduce boys' clubs; to promote the purchase of playgrounds for poor children; and to get the School Board to leave the playgrounds open till dusk. Are not all these laudable objects, and if we are our brothers' keepers, are we not bound in every way to help?

Ah, if you had seen the little abandoned children yesterday. There they were tumbling over each other, squalling, playing, fighting among themselves, only stopping for a minute to stare at me with solemn eyes, and then go on with the fun. One small lad never speaks a word, although he is neither deaf or dumb, merely a young apostle of silence. A chubby two-year-old looked at me crossly, as though he resented being called "Carrots," and didn't understand having his head patted. Some of the bigger lads of nine, or thereabouts, are sad little thieves. They will steal anything, from penknives to chewing gum, and will steal off and hide, to smoke cigar butts, or, indeed, any gutter tobacco they can find. Who shall blame them? Not you nor I certainly, madam. Our boys would do the same if they were allowed to grow up rank weeds like these poor chaps. Phrases and fine language are of no use in face of the stern fact that the children if not helped in time will grow up and swell our criminal classes. They are there and cannot be got rid of.—KIT.

PRISON REFORM CONFERENCE.

A prison reform conference was held in Toronto, November 26, 1889. Mr. W. H. Howland presided, and there was a large and representa-

tive gathering of philanthropic workers. One of the principal resolutions was one moved by Mr. Beverley Jones, advocating industrial schools for neglected children, and the following extract is taken from the newspaper report of the following morning:

Mr. J. J. Kelso seconded the resolution. The treatment of children, he maintained, was at the basis of all true prison reform. There were in Toronto to-day from 400 to 500 children who do not attend school. The reason of this is that their parents are either worthless or too poor to give them suitable clothes. News children generally turn out criminals. Upwards of a dozen photographs of criminals now in the rogues' gallery of the Police Department had been shown to him by Inspector Stark as those of boys who were once newsboys. When a newsboy reached the age of 16 his occupation is gone, and there is no other resource open to him for a livelihood but theft. Then again, newsgirls were a crying evil. Very few of these children are saved to a good life. To remedy these grievances the Humane Society obtained legislation providing for licensing juvenile news vendors on the streets. Mr. Kelso also complained of the system of arresting young criminals, pointing out that they were promiscuously confined in the police stations with hardened criminals. Then again, young girls were placed in the same cells with drunken and depraved women. The remedy, in his estimation, was a temporary refuge or shelter for destitute children or for those cursed with drunken and depraved parents and separate trial. There should be kindergarten mission schools established in different parts of the city, to take care of young children before they become hardened juvenile criminals.

A FINE EDITORIAL.

In the midst of the child protection campaign, the *Globe* came out with the following editorial, November 27, 1889:

JUVENILE WAIFS AND STRAYS.

It would be difficult to say how often *The Globe* has discussed the ever-present and ever-pressing question of how most effectually to transform bad or neglected boys and girls into honest, honorable youths and maidens. Pity that in such a young country as Canada, where population is so scarce and where land well fitted to yield an honorable subsistence can be had for the asking, this should be necessary, or that there should be any hungry, vicious and neglected children who have to be cared for by the public at large and prevented, if possible, from growing up as general burdens, nuisances and dangers. So, however, it is, and the difficulty and danger must be met and overcome in the most efficient way possible. If the fathers and mothers could be trained to be anything like what they ought to be, the question and difficulty would to a large extent be successfully solved. There are no doubt vicious children coming out of honorable, well-regulated homes. But that is the comparatively rare exception, not the rule. It is still true, as in other days, that the child who is wisely, tenderly and perseveringly trained up in the way he should go, will not, as a general thing, depart from it when he is old. The children who are a blot and a menace to our civilization are those whose parents are selfish, vicious, lazy, drunken and self-indulgent good-for-nothings, who are glad to have their young ones on the street or anywhere else so that they may not be troubled with their noise or be burdened by their support. Reformatory training and industrial schools, are, in short, quite as much needed for parents as for children. That, however, cannot perhaps be secured, it may be said, and in its absence the community as such must stand in *loco parentis* to the poor, neglected waifs, who in six cases out of seven would be a burden or a blot to no one if their fathers and mothers would only do their duty. All honor to those who are caring for such neglected little ones, and are seeking in every good and gracious way to keep them out of the hands of the police and free from the contamination of the gaol, whether by gathering them into Industrial Schools or by seeking to purify and improve their miserable homes. Nothing could be too strongly put in the

way of advocating such schools as that which is doing such a good work at Mimico, and the necessity for keeping children out of the contamination and disgrace inseparable from even a short confinement in our gaols. But while a good deal is said about the necessity for further legislation in order to perfect and multiply such places for rescuing and caring for the children, there is not so much said as there ought to be about further and more stringent legislation in order to make parents do their duty to their children and to punish neglect of that duty.

By all means let us have Industrial Schools. By all means let children be kept from the pollution and hardening influence sure to come from premature and unwise incarceration. But let all this be conjoined with a continued reference to the true criminals, those fathers and mothers who, the more society takes the care of their children off their hands, like it all the better and plunge only the more into self-indulgent debauchery and heartlessness. The Industrial School, in short, like charity of all kinds, unless wisely managed, may only feed the evil which it is intended to destroy. The people of England, and of other places, who have given most attention to this subject are feeling this more and more, and the most recent legislation, carried a few months ago through the Imperial Parliament, points very significantly in the direction we have indicated by making the parents, in some cases directly, and in others indirectly responsible, and therefore punishable for the sins of their children. If the children are sent out to beg, those who send them are now in England made responsible. If they steal and it can be shown that they take their plunder home, that, too, makes a case against those with whom they live. We don't give all the particulars, but simply refer to this regulation as going in the right direction, not forgetting especially the power secured to break absolutely the parental claim for control over the child, while in every case insisting that the expense incurred shall be borne by the parent to the very utmost of his or her ability. There are plenty of fathers in Toronto and elsewhere who are only too glad to get quit of the bother and expense incurred by the mere fact of their having children. Let this ever be kept in mind and in the midst of all this most commendable and angel-like

caring for the little ones let law do its best to keep the selfish, unnatural fathers and mothers from going scot free and laughing at the idea of their having got society in general or a number of kind-hearted individuals in particular to shoulder their responsibilities and relieve them from all the trouble and expense of caring for, supporting and training those whom they irreverently and contemptuously call "their kids," and whom they would just as soon see dead or kept by the charitable as anything else. Society must, for its own protection, look after those unfortunate waifs and strays; but in any and every case let it do its best to make the fathers and mothers "toe the mark."

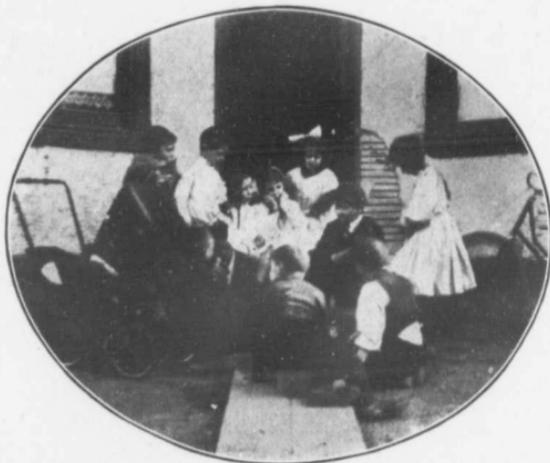
POOR, YET RICH.

"No land nor gold do I hold in fee,
Naught can I give the world," said he,

But many a heart as he passed along
Was cheered by the lilt of his merry song;
While hapless wanderers, gone astray,
Were guided back to the better way;
And eyes that were dimmed with tears the while
Would flash once more in an answering smile.

"The rarest gifts to be given away
Are neither land nor gold," said they.
—*Dixie Wolcott.*





CHILDREN NEED ROOM TO PLAY.

PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN.

ON December 6, 1889, the members of the Trades and Labor Council were asked for their co-operation in a movement to secure public playgrounds for children and young people. As a means of paying for such playgrounds, it was proposed to ask the Government to impose a legacy tax, the proceeds from which might be applied for this and other philanthropic objects.

This was the first occasion on which the legacy tax, afterwards adopted by the Ontario Government, was advocated in this Province. To Mr. Beverley Jones belongs the credit for this. The *Toronto News* of December 7, 1889, gave the following report of the meeting:

IN BEHALF OF THE KIDS.

THE TRADES COUNCIL ADVOCATES PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS.

The Trades' and Labor Council sat last night. President Glockling in the chair.

After routine business a deputation from the Humane Society was introduced and Messrs. Beverley Jones and J. J. Kelso, addressed the meeting, advocating the establishment of playgrounds in various parts of the city for children. The arguments of the deputation caught the members of the Council exactly and the following resolution, moved by W. H. Parr and seconded by J. W. Davey, was carried:

"That the 25,000 school children of Toronto are entitled to have proper play grounds, similar to those at-

tached to University College, Trinity College, Upper Canada College, St. Michael's College, the Bishop Strachan College, the Loretto School, the St. Joseph School and Osgoode Hall;

"That if it be not possible to procure grounds next to the schools, then such playgrounds should be secured as near to existing schools as possible.

"That the opportunity of securing the play ground of Upper Canada College for the children of Central Toronto should not be lost.

"That as one mode of forming a fund for part payment for such grounds, this Council considers the proposed tax on legacies to collateral relations a fair and proper impost, and are so recognized both in England and the United States;

"That the Legislative Committee be requested to assist the Humane Society in accomplishing the beneficial undertaking by waiting on the Government and the School Board, and taking such steps as they may consider proper to forward the object proposed."

This subject was also brought before the Toronto School Board and the *Globe* of November 28, 1889, contained the following item:

The Public School Board held its regular meeting last night, the members present being Chairman Kent, and Trustees Williams, Roden, Hastings, Whitesides, Vair, Schoff, Baird, Johnston, Middleton, McSpadden, McCracken, Kerr, Downard, Frank Somers, C. A. B. Brown, Oliver, Jno. Kent, Dr. Ogden, George McMurich and Walter S. Lee.

On motion of Mr. Brown the rules were suspended to allow a deputation from the Humane Society to address the Board.

Messrs. Beverley Jones and J. J. Kelso were the spokesmen. Both gentlemen spoke of the sad state of the neglected children of our city, and urged that there should be small special schools for them with compulsory attendance. The fact that the street arabs have no playgrounds where they can legally play was brought out, and

it was suggested as a remedy for this evil, public playgrounds be provided by the city. The funds for this purpose it was proposed to raise by a legacy tax, five or ten per cent., according as the money was left to relatives or non-relatives.

On motion of Messrs. T. Hastings and C. A. B. Brown, a committee consisting of Messrs. Lee, McMurrich, Kent, Somers, Ogden, Roden, Baird, Hastings and Brown, was appointed to examine the draft act proposed by the deputation and to take steps to bring the matter before the Minister of Education."

One of the immediate results of this meeting was the conversion of the Jesse Ketchum Park, north Toronto, into a Children's playground.

A little city girl who had been in the country as the guest of the Children's Fresh Air Fund was taken very ill, and during her delirium was constantly speaking of the farm, the river and the flowers. She would always end up by enquiring from those around her, "Is it all there still?"

ORIGIN OF ALEXANDRA SCHOOL.

AT this time—1889—there was no institution in the Province, outside of the juvenile branch of the Mercer Reformatory, for the care of wayward or delinquent girls, and it was felt that there should be an industrial school. For the consideration of this subject a number of citizens met in the Y. M. C. A. parlors on December 10, 1889, when the establishment of the Alexandra School was decided upon. The following is the newspaper account of the meeting:

About fifty ladies who have interested themselves in the movement to establish a Girl's Industrial School, met in one of the Y.M.C.A. parlors yesterday to consider what steps should be taken for the furtherance of this subject. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. W. T. Aikens, with Miss M. Wilkes as Secretary, and among the ladies present were Mrs. Archdeacon Boddy, Mrs. Harvie, Mrs. Edward Blake, Mrs. W. C. Matthews, Mrs. George Kerr, Mrs. O'Reilly, Miss M. C. Elliot, Mrs. Finch, etc. The ladies had invited Rev. Dr. Potts, Inspector Hughes, Staff-Inspector Archibald, Rev. Leroy Hooker and J. J. Kelso to address the meeting as to the need of such an institution, and these gentlemen gave many facts showing that the establishment of a Girls' Industrial Home is a pressing necessity. The first speaker, Mr. Kelso, pointed out that while much was being done in Toronto to reform criminals, very little effort was being made to save the children from drifting into the same channel. He referred to the licensing measure for newschildren secured by the Humane Society, and urged that there should be a Children's Shelter established for the temporary confinement of young children and that girls and children under fifteen should be tried apart from adult offenders.

Others who spoke favorably on the need of such a school were Inspector Archibald, School Inspector Hughes, Rev. Dr. Potts, Miss M. C. Elliot, and Mrs. John Harvie.

CHILDREN'S SHELTER.

MANY CHILDREN FOUND IN THE POLICE STATIONS AND THE JAIL, BEING EDUCATED IN CRIMINALITY.

The regulations regarding news children emphasized the necessity for a Children's Shelter, and such an institution was recognized from the first to be an absolute necessity. In the *Empire* of May 7, 1890, the following item appeared:

TEMPORARY REFUGE FOR CHILDREN.

The Toronto Humane Society held its monthly meeting yesterday afternoon, the president, Mr. W. R. Brock in the chair. Mr. J. J. Kelso brought up the matter of a temporary refuge for neglected children, an institution badly needed in Toronto and which he was anxious to see established under the auspices of the Humane Society. This refuge was the more needed, he said, owing to the adoption of the measure prohibiting girls and very young boys from running the streets at all hours of the night under the guise of selling papers. The scheme was favorably received and additional information will be secured on the subject, especially as to how much aid the city might be relied upon to give.

The following description of the institution needed was printed about the same time in the Humane Society report, and some years later the CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF TORONTO was established on the lines indicated:

A temporary refuge for destitute and neglected children is one of the objects which the Toronto Humane Society desires to promote. Such a building situated in a central locality would serve as a temporary home for the waifs picked up by the police, and for those children whom it might be necessary to remove from the influence of a cruel, drunken, or dissolute parent or guardian. There is at present no institution in the city where a child would be sure at any time of a reception and kind treatment. It is therefore, an urgent necessity that early attention should be thus given to the children of the bye-ways who, in years may prove a curse or a blessing to the community according to the early treatment which they receive.



TO SECURE PLAYGROUNDS.

ON every suitable occasion the need for playgrounds for children was pointed out, and in conference with Mr. O. A. Howland it was decided to organize an association for this and other objects. The following reports, taken from the *Mail* of February and March, 1890, fully explain what was attempted:

PUBLIC PLACES ASSOCIATION.

A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF OBJECTS DECIDED UPON YESTERDAY.

A meeting to organize the Toronto Public Places Association was held in the Humane Society office, Bay Street, at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. O. A. Howland, presided, and those present were Sir Daniel Wilson, Rev. Dr. Scadding, W. G. Storm, J. J. Kelso, (Secretary), Beverley Jones, John Earls, John W. L. Forster, J. S. Thomson, S. George Curry, Hamilton McCarthy, Allan MacDougall, Dr. J. E. White, Wm. Stark.

After some discussion it was decided that the name of the organization should be the "Ontario Public Places Association" the annual membership fee being placed at \$4.

The objects of the Association are as follows:—

- (1) The preservation and perpetuation by the means and influence of the Association of public places, spots of beauty or interest and recreation grounds in the capital city and throughout the Province
- (2) The suitable adornment of such places, particularly by the erection of statues commemorating illustrious men connected with the history of the country

(3) The maintenance on a central site of a Provincial Museum of Science, Arts and History, including, (a) The Natural productions of the Province, its mines, fields, forests, fauna, flora, and its relics of aboriginal life and customs; (b) the establishment of an Art Gallery and Museum containing the best attainable models of art and design in connection with lecture rooms, schools and exhibition rooms to develop the taste of our people in the broadest and most practical lines of industrial, decorative and fine art.

(4) The joining together of these objects, if possible ultimately in a suitable building to serve also the purpose of a great central music hall for the encouragement of the development of musical education in the Province.

(5) To unite into one composite body all those Societies existing in the Province whose objects are included in the foregoing, and who may be willing to unite together for the general good, while preserving the autonomy in respect of their special interests.

Arrangements were made for the mass meeting of citizens to be held in the Pavilion on Tuesday, March 4th, to discuss the above objects.

The following month—March, 1890—a second meeting was held, and the report of the *Mail* is given herewith:

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY.

DISCUSSING THE BEST MEANS OF SECURING THE THREE GOVERNMENT SQUARES.

A conference took place at the City Hall yesterday afternoon between the Parks Committee and a deputation from the recently organized Public Places Association, the chief point of discussion being the best means of securing Upper Canada College grounds and the two squares to the south for a public park and as the site of a Provincial Museum, Art Gallery, etc. Those present were:—Ald. Swait, (Chairman), Hallam, Gillespie, E. A.

Macdonald, Dodds, Booth, Score, Lucas, McMullen and G. S. Macdonald, Sir Adam Wilson, Rev. Dr. Scadding, O. A. Howland, Rev. Aruthur H. Baldwin, ex-Ald. J. L. Morrison, J. J. Kelso, Dr. J. E. White, W. D. Blatchly, Hamilton McCarthy, S. George Curry and J. S. Thomson.

Mr. Howland said that the deputation, as representative of the citizens generally, were desirous of seeing the open spaces already in use continued as places of public resort for all time. Just now it was proposed to build up the present U.C.C. grounds, the Government thereby taking advantage of the increase in value of that property to sell what has always been regarded as public park lands. That spot being the radial centre of the city it was desirable that it should be preserved to the citizens and buildings of a Provincial and public character erected thereon. If there were a suitable building he was informed that a good collection of statuary could be obtained for about \$30,000 and this was badly needed in Toronto.

Mr Kelso added that while the Association was desirous of seeing Upper Canada College grounds preserved as a public park, it had also for its object the securing of other squares and their beautification by the erection of fountains, statues and monuments. He instanced the fact that Castle Frank, to which attached a romantic interest, was in danger of being obliterated, as the site was not marked in any way.

OF SHORT DURATION.

This association did not last more than a year, the president, Mr. O. A. Howland, becoming discouraged over the failure to secure the Upper Canada College grounds as a recreation park, and no further meetings were called.

KIT'S WARM COMMENDATION.

The work of the Humane Society elicited the praise of "Kit," the well-known writer of Wo-

man's Kingdom in the *Mail*, and in May, 1891, she wrote as follows:

I do not think any one has helped to promulgate the gospel of kindness to animals more widely than Mr. Kelso. Toronto owes that gentleman a great deal for his services in the cause of overworked and cruelly-treated animals, the city has benefited by his untiring efforts to elevate the people of Toronto towards kindness to the brute creation, and no appeal made to him on behalf of suffering and ill-treated animals has been ever made in vain.



RESIGNS SECRETARYSHIP.

THE following item, copied from the *Mail* of June 26, 1891, is self-explanatory:

HUMANE SOCIETY.**SECRETARY KELSO TENDERS HIS RESIGNATION — OTHER
IMPORTANT MATTERS ATTENDED TO.**

The officers and active members of the Toronto Humane Society held a special meeting yesterday afternoon, at which Mr. J. J. Kelso, who has been the energetic secretary of the society since its inception, tendered his resignation of that office. Mr. W. R. Brock presided, and among those present were Mr. James H. Pearce, Dr. McCausland, Mr. Kelso, Capt. McMaster, Rev. A. H. Baldwin, C. B. Grasett, Mrs. Meredith, Miss Wills, Mrs. S. W. Johnston, Mrs. Grasett and Mrs. Leigh. The president read the following communication from Mr. Kelso:

Toronto, June 23, 1891.

"Dear Mr. Brock,—Owing to the fact that my active connection with philanthropic work militates seriously against my private interests, I am compelled to place in your hands my resignation of the office of secretary of the Toronto Humane Society. I need hardly tell you that I take this step with the greatest reluctance, and with the earnest hope that this action may not in any way retard the progress of a work which I believe is much needed in Toronto, and to which I have given for the past four years my best thought and energy.

Very sincerely yours,

J. J. KELSO,

Mr. Brock referred in terms of the highest praise to the whole-hearted service given to the cause by Mr. Kelso, and stated that as he was a young man, having to make his way in the world, it was only fair that he should be relieved of the responsibilities and duties of the secretaryship. Mr. Kelso, he understood, did not propose giving up his interest in the work, but would still be able to assist in the deliberations of the society.

Mr. J. H. Pearce, who was one of the first members of the society, also spoke many kind words concerning Mr. Kelso. He moved the following resolution, seconded by Dr. McCausland:—

“That the Toronto Humane Society hear with regret that Mr. J. J. Kelso, on account of business engagements, has severed his connection with it as its secretary, and bearing in mind that he was its chief originator and has taken an active part in all its good work since;

“*Resolved*, That our thanks be given to Mr. Kelso for all that he has done, accompanied by our best good wishes for the interest he still proposes to take in our work;

“*Resolved*, Further, that in recognition of his services he be now appointed to fill a vacancy existing among the vice-presidents of the society.”

Mr. Kelso organized the Humane Society while a member of the *World* staff, some five years ago. A correspondent, wrote suggesting the need of a society, and Mr. Kelso took the matter up, called a meeting, and secured the appointment of a committee, which afterwards took permanent shape. In addition to much good work on behalf of dumb animals, Mr. Kelso introduced the by-law prohibiting girls from selling newspapers and licensing newsboys. He also has the honor of having inaugurated the Children's Fresh Air Fund, now one of the popular charities of the city. At the last convention of the American Humane Association he was elected treasurer of that body.

TORONTO NEWSBOYS' LODGING.

In the years 1890-91, as a member of the Board of the Toronto Newsboys' Lodging and Industrial Home, two important changes were advocated. First, that the work should be removed from the somewhat dilapidated building and poor surroundings of Frederick Street to a more helpful and inspiring neighborhood; and, second, that the boys should be encouraged to learn trades and give up the precarious existence of newspaper selling. Both these objects were heartily endorsed by Hon. G. W. Allan, Sir Casimir Gzowski, Chief Justice Hagarty, Dr. Oldright, Warring Kennedy, etc., and in due time both reforms were brought about, the work being now located in the splendidly equipped "Oakham House," corner of Church and Gould Streets, largely through the indefatigable services of Mr. R. S. Baird in collecting the necessary funds.

To lay up lasting treasure
Of perfect service rendered, duties done
In charity, soft speech, and stainless days:
These riches shall not fade away in life.
Nor any death dispraise.

—*Sir Edwin Arnold.*



PRISON REFORM COMMISSION.

ALL the moral forces of the community were now actively united in the demand for intelligent and progressive legislation for the prevention of crime; and, in response to frequent solicitations, the Ontario Government decided on July 3, 1890, to appoint a Commission. The members named were Mr. J. W. Langmuir, chairman; Hon. Charles Drury, Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, Mr. A. F. Jury, and Hon. T. W. Anglin, secretary. They were directed to investigate and report on the following subjects:

1. The causes of crime in the Province.
2. Any improved means which may be adopted in the Province for providing and conducting industrial schools.
3. Any improved means which may be adopted in the Province for rescuing destitute children from a criminal career.
4. Any improvement in the management of the County Jails of the Province, and with respect to the classification of prisoners therein.
5. The most fitting practical employment of prisoners in the Province.
6. The question of indeterminate sentences for offenders against Provincial laws.
7. Any improved way of dealing with tramps and habitual drunkards in the Province.

It can readily be seen that special prominence is given to the problem of saving children from

crime, and in the large volume of evidence taken by the Commission this thought looms up on every page.

In its finding the Commission traced crime back in nearly every instance to a neglected childhood. To quote the words of the Report :

On the most thoughtful consideration of this subject and careful analysis of the evidence taken in connection with that branch of the enquiry the Commissioners are led to the conclusion that the chief causes of crime in the community are :

The want of proper parental control; the lack of good home training and the baneful influence of bad homes, largely due to the culpable neglect and indifference of parents, and the evil effects of drunkenness.

It was the almost universal opinion of all who gave testimony on this subject. And this is also the opinion of such writers as we have been able to consult, that the great majority of criminals begin their career of vice and crime at an early age, and that where there are many juvenile offenders there will in time be many criminals, unless proper methods of prevention and reformation are employed.

This Report was presented to the Government on April 8, 1891.

“When obedience is enforced from authority, and not from sympathy and confidence, there will be secret deceit if not open revolt.”

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

WHEN this Report was published the time seemed opportune for the organization of a Children's Aid Society, to wisely direct the trend of legislation that was sure to follow.

In preparing the way for the proposed society a letter was written to the *Toronto News* on April 15, 1891, from which the following extract is taken:

Editor News: I happened to be at the Police Court the other day and the first thing that caught my attention was the presence before the bar of no less than seven boys, not one of whom was eighteen years of age. They were charged with larceny in various degrees, and one had even gone so far as to have served a term in Kingston penitentiary. The number of boys who come up in the Police Court from day to day is a problem that calls for the most careful inquiry and the application of remedies calculated to effect a decided change. The Police report for the past year gives the number of boys arrested between the ages of ten and fifteen to be 653, while the number between the ages of fifteen and twenty was 971, a total of 1,624.

Should we not organize at once a Society that will rescue children from such unfortunate conditions and afford them the opportunity to grow up good men and women?
J. J. KELSO.

ACTION APPROVED.

After securing the cordial endorsement of such men as W. H. Howland, Beverley Jones, Inspector Archibald, Mr. Langmuir, and Dr. Rose-

brugh, members of the Commission, the following circular letter was issued, calling a meeting for organization :

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

Toronto, June 23, 1891

Dear Sir,—A public meeting at which your presence is requested, will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Lecture Hall, on Friday evening, July 3rd, to discuss the advisability of organizing a Children's Aid Society and Fresh Air Fund combined. The need of a strong Society to deal with all matters affecting neglected or criminally-disposed children has impressed itself upon many, and much good may be accomplished in this direction.

Among other matters that would receive attention from a Children's Aid Society, the following might be mentioned as objects that are desirable :

The providing of adequate school accommodation for the children of the very poor and the strict enforcement of school attendance.

The establishment of kindergarten mission schools and the appointment of specially qualified women to gather in and train the neglected little ones under seven years of age.

The establishment of a children's refuge, in which children falling into the hands of the police may be temporarily cared for.

The separate trial of juvenile offenders and young girls.

The appointment of a probation officer to ascertain and submit to the court full particulars of each child brought up for trial, and to act in the capacity of the child's next friend.

The establishment of industrial homes, so that every homeless or abandoned child may be trained for honest and useful citizenship.

The thorough enforcement of the newsboy licensing regulations.

The prohibition of boys under sixteen years from living in the lower class of lodging and eating houses, thus saving them from association with doubtful characters.

The appointment of a Provincial inspector of juvenile institutions who would exercise a general supervision over all work of this character.

The formation of boys' clubs in connection with downtown churches and mission chapels, with a view to keeping boys off the streets at night.

The providing of playgrounds in the poorer districts.

The securing of a poor children's summer vacation home and picnic grounds along the lake shore.

J. J. KELSO,

Convener.

THE ORGANIZATION MEETING.

In response to this circular about seventy-five persons assembled in Association Hall on the evening of July 21, 1891. The chair was occupied by Mayor Howland, and, all being agreed as to the need of such a society, the plan of organization was proceeded with. The report of the meeting, as published in the *Globe* the following day July 4th—will be of historical interest:

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

TO LOOK AFTER NEGLECTED LITTLE ONES.—NEW SOCIETY FORMED.

A meeting of citizens interested in the organization of work on behalf of the neglected children of the city was held last night in the Y.M.C.A. lecture hall. Those present were heartily in accord with the movement and were thoroughly representative of the public-spirited philan-

thropy of the city. Mr. W. H. Howland was elected chairman, and in the audience were Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh and Mrs. Rosebrugh, Beverley Jones, James Massie, (warden of Central Prison), Inspector Archibald, Edward Taylor (city relief officer), Henry O'Brien, Dr. Harley Smith, J. J. Kelso, D. J. McKinnon (superintendent Industrial School), Mrs. Helliwell, Miss M. C. Elliot, Miss Scott, Mrs. S. J. Brett, James Thomson, Mrs. and Miss Kane, Miss Burnett, Miss Green, Miss Ruthven, David Higgins, Mrs. and Miss Nunn.

Mr. Howland, after the meeting had been opened with prayer, said they were called together to organize "a friend for children." Many people were interested in the neglected little ones of the city, but what was everybody's business was the business of no one in particular. It was proposed to have a strong society to deal with all questions, affecting neglected children, such as the neglect and indifference of parents, reforms in police procedure, improved laws, etc. He pointed out that heretofore this work had not been dealt with by any existing society—the Industrial Association only looked after boys and girls who were already gone astray and needed direct looking after; the Humane Society took up cases of cruelty to children, but it was felt that there was room and necessity for a strong and vigorous organization to give its whole time and thought to the cause of poor children.

Mr. J. J. Kelso, the convener of the meeting explained the various objects proposed to be dealt with, already published in these columns. He read letters from well-known citizens expressing their endorsement of the proposed movement.

Mr. J. W. Langmuir, chairman of the Ontario Prison Reform Commission, wrote:—

I sincerely hope that you and your co-workers will be able to carry into effect some of the sensible and eminently practicable suggestions contained in your circular in connection with the work of child saving.

The recent investigations of the Prison Reform Commission have convinced me beyond all doubt that until

some such measures are generally adopted in large cities we never can hope to stem the ever-increasing volume of vice and criminality in the community; moreover, no time should be lost in organizing the work, as the increase which is going on in all city populations will render the initial proceedings, if long delayed, all the more difficult. "I shall be glad to render all the assistance that I can in attaining the desirable objects that you are seeking."

The Hon. S. H. Blake wrote:—

"I need scarcely say that I most heartily sympathize with any movement that is made for the looking after our neglected children. They are a most dangerous element, recruiting the ranks of criminals and leading astray other children with whom they mingle. We are not a rich enough community to be able to sustain the criminal class, and we should therefore seek to "nip it in the bud."

Mr. T. R. Clougher, of *The Week*, wrote:—

"I am thoroughly in sympathy with the movement, and regret exceedingly that an engagement of long standing prevents me from attending the meeting to-night."

Mr. Hugh Blain, of Eby, Blain & Co., wrote:—

"I will be unable to accept your invitation for to-morrow evening's meeting, but cordially endorse the proposal to organize a Children's Aid Society. The objects are most worthy. If formed I shall gladly contribute towards the maintenance of the society.

Inspector Stark, who at the last moment was unable to be present, wrote:—"The task of saving the boys and girls is more congenial, more likely to be productive of good results, and cannot but be more satisfactory in every way in the end than reforming them. Criminals are nearly all made before they reach the age of twenty. Keep the boys on the right track till they reach that age and the chances are all in their favor."

Mr. Beverley Jones spoke strongly on the need of securing playgrounds for the children of Toronto. The city was losing part of Queen's Park and the Upper Canada College grounds, and gradually the breathing spots of the

city were being built upon. He thought a vigorous effort should be made to secure in the centre of the city suitable playgrounds for poor children.

Mr. Henry O'Brien presented this resolution:

"Resolved, That this meeting realizing the importance of united work in behalf of neglected children do approve of the formation in Toronto of a Children's Aid Society and Fresh Air Fund, to deal with all matters affecting the moral and physical welfare of children, especially those who from lack of parental care or other causes are in danger of growing up to swell the criminal class."

Mr. O'Brien expressed his cordial interest in the movement, and pointed out that the society would save the community thousands of dollars, as it would rescue from criminal careers many who would otherwise grow up to be a curse and a danger to themselves and all round.

Mr. James Massie seconded the resolution, and said that the more he had to do with criminals the more keenly did he realize the necessity of doing something for the little ones to save them from drifting into the police station and the prison cell. The St. Andrews Institute was doing a grand work among young boys, and there should be many similar organizations in connection with the various churches.

Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh presented the following motion, seconded by Inspector Archibald:—

That the first officers of the Children's Aid Society and Fresh Air Fund be as follows:

President—J. J. Kelso.

Vice-Presidents—W. H. Howland, Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, J. W. Langmuir, Hugh Blain.

Treasurer—Beverley Jones.

Secretary—J. S. Coleman.

Executive Committee—James Massie, H. C. Dixon, Dr. Oldright, Prof. Ashley, Miss M. C. Elliot, Mrs. Sheffield, Mrs. Dr. Oldright, Inspector Archibald, Miss Scott, Henry O'Brien, Dr. Harley Smith, James Thomson, Mrs. Denison, D. Higgins and T. R. Clougher, with power to add to their number.

These officers are to have power to appoint a provisional agent, collect subscriptions and report to the first annual meeting to be held in October.

Dr. Rosebrugh spoke of the work of the Prison Reform Commission, and in expressing his interest in the new organization said that his only wonder was that the subject had not been taken up long ago.

Inspector Archibald spoke of the objects of the society, and after Mr. Kelso had thanked the meeting for the honor conferred upon him, the proceedings terminated with the doxology.

INCORPORATION.

In October, 1891, Mr. E. A. DuVernet, solicitor of the society, applied for and secured incorporation, the names appended to the declaration being those of J. J. Kelso, W. H. Howland, Beverley Jones, Rev. H. C. Dixon, Henry O'Brien, Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, and D. F. Milne. The general objects of the society were set forth to be: "To care for and protect neglected children; to secure the enactment and enforcement of laws relating to neglected children or juvenile offenders; to provide free summer excursions and other means of recreation or pleasure for poor children; and, generally, to advocate the claims of neglected children upon the sympathy and support of the public."

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

The year passed quickly, but much progress was made by the new society and many friends gained to the cause of the children. The first an-

nual meeting was reported in the *Toronto World*, December 7, 1891, as follows:

FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

THE LATEST PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY ORGANIZED IN TORONTO.

The first annual meeting of the Toronto Children's Aid Society was held in the Academy of Music last night. The room, with its pictures and electric light, was bright and cheerful; so were the speeches and the entire proceedings. City Missionary Hall opened the meeting with prayer.

President J. J. Kelso, in a capital speech, reviewed the origin and explained the objects of the society. The chief of these are the establishment of a children's refuge, the separate trial of juvenile offenders and young girls and the appointment of a probation officer to ascertain and submit to the court full particulars of each child brought up for trial, and to act in the capacity of the child's next friend.

"Why another society?" was often asked. "Because," answered the chairman, "up to the present time we have had no society to look after neglected children." Then the chairman showed how much wiser and more economical it is to save the children than to reform criminals. The 600 newsboys in the city would find in the society a friend.

The development of the society is interesting. Four years ago the Fresh Air Fund was started by Mr. Kelso, then came the Christmas entertainments for poor children, and these have developed into the Children's Aid Society. The need of the latter is shown in the fact that 500 neglected children were proceeded against in the Police Court last year. The announcement that in a short time a Children's Shelter will be opened in Centre-street where homeless or destitute children would be received day and night was received with applause.

Mr. H. A. Massey said he was deeply interested in the new society. He regarded it as a grand movement, and as hopeful as any society in Toronto. In view of the

increase of juvenile crime in the city it could not fail to be of great service. He wished it every success.

Rev. J. E. Starr, gave a powerful address in behalf of Toronto's latest philanthropic organization. It ought, he said, to be not only the defender of children in the police court, but the asserter of their rights wherever they were infringed, and their protector against disease, maltreatment and starvation.

Rev. Dr. Parsons, Mr. Beverley Jones and other speakers also endorsed the platform of the society.

The following were elected as officers of the society:

President—J. J. Kelso.

Vice-Presidents—W. H. Howland, J. W. Langmuir,
Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, Hugh Blain.

Treasurer—Beverley Jones.

Agent and Secretary—J. S. Coleman.

Executive Committee—James Massie, H. C. Dixon, Prof. Ashley, Dr. Oldright, Henry O'Brien, Dr. Harley Smith, James Thomson, David Higgins, T. R. Clougher, Miss M. C. Elliot, Mrs. A. E. Denison, Miss M. T. Scott, Mrs. Sheffield, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Dr. Oldright.

During the evening musical selections were given by Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Blight and Mr. Beddoe, Miss Wetherald gave two appropriate readings in admirable style: "Santa Claus in a Miners' Camp," and "Picnic Sam."

The first annual meeting is regarded as an augury of assured success.

RULES FOR THE SHELTER.

At a meeting of the Children's Aid Society, held on November 15, 1892, the following report was made by the special committee appointed to lay down the principle on which the children's temporary shelter should be managed. It will be found of general interest:

The committee to whom was referred the subject of a temporary shelter for neglected and destitute children beg to report that in their opinion the greatest care should be taken to prevent the idea getting abroad that the children's shelter is in any sense a permanent home for children. It was established as a temporary shelter for abused, neglected and deserted children, to be open to this class night and day without fee of any kind, but only affording shelter and protection until the children can be suitably disposed of either by compelling parents to do their duty towards their offspring or securing for homeless children, or those whom the courts decide should be removed from parental control, admittance to one of the public institutions provided for such cases.

It is therefore not desirable, in the opinion of your committee, that any child should be kept in the shelter longer than one month, except for very special reasons, and as a rule ten days should suffice to provide for a proper disposal of any child.

Where the parent or parents of any child admitted to the shelter is alive and residing in Toronto, and the shelter committee believe that the child has been improperly treated, the case should be reported to the staff department of the police force, in order that it may be fully investigated and the society thus released from responsibility.

Where children of tender years are found alone on the streets after 10 o'clock, p.m., begging, selling papers, or wandering about, the officers or members of the society, either by themselves or with the assistance of a police constable, should take the child or children to the shelter, and report the case as aforesaid. In all cases where children are picked up on the streets, whether lost or otherwise, and taken to the shelter, the case should be reported to the police, in order that the parents or guardians, if any, may be communicated with at once. Signed, J. J. Kelso; D. Archibald, staff inspector Toronto police force; Robert Hall, city missionary.

RETIREMENT FROM THE PRESIDENCY.

After holding the office of president for nearly two years, the financial sacrifice became so great as to make resignation advisable. At a meeting in February, 1892, when the resignation was received, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

Moved by Mr. R. S. Baird,

Seconded by Dr. W. Harley Smith,

And resolved, "That while regretting the retirement of Mr. Kelso from the presidency of the Children's Aid Society, this meeting desires to place on record its high appreciation of his philanthropic efforts on behalf of neglected children. As founder of the Children's Fresh Air Fund, and also of the Children's Aid Society, he has rendered distinguished services to the community, and has inaugurated a work the good results from which in the future it would be impossible to estimate."

In addition to the above, it was also moved by Miss W. M. Wills, seconded by Mrs. Johnston, and carried unanimously, "That Mr. Kelso be elected an honorary life member of the society."

The presidency was then tendered to and accepted by Mr. J. K. Macdonald, managing director of the Confederation Life Association, who has up to the present time directed the affairs of the society.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual meeting of the society was held on the evening of October 27, 1893. Although a little out of chronological order, the

report of the proceedings as printed next day in the *Globe* might be given here:

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING AT THE PAVILION A GREAT SUCCESS:
HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

The Board of Management of the Children's Aid Society of this city should be more than satisfied with the result of their second annual meeting. The gathering was called for eight o'clock and although the Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen, was detained at Government House half an hour beyond the time appointed for him to take the chair, the large audience which crowded the Pavilion was agreeably entertained until his arrival by lively strains from the band of the 48th Highlanders. When the vice-regal party finally arrived, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, the following ladies and gentlemen escorted them to the platform, where they also occupied seats: President, J. K. Macdonald, Vice-Presidents, Dr. Oldright, Dr. Harley Smith, Dr. Rosebrugh; Treasurer, A. M. Campbell; Secretary, J. E. Starr; Assistant Secretary J. Stuart Coleman; R. S. Baird, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hon. Richard Harcourt, Hon. Senator Allan, Rev. Dr. Withrow, Rev. Dr. Alex. Sutherland, Rev. Dr. Briggs, Rev. Chas. Ingles, Rev. Dr. Parker, Rev. Dr. Parsons, Staff Inspector Archibald, J. J. Kelso, Ald. Hewitt, Ald. Hallam, Rev. Jas. Grant, Alex. Mills, Edward Hooper, Joseph Tait, M.P.P., Mrs. Helliwell, Mrs. J. K. Macdonald, Mrs. J. E. Starr, Mrs. John Ridout, Mrs. C. C. Dalton, Miss L. Wills, Miss W. M. Wills, Miss Anna Cull, Miss M. Robinson, Ensign Williams of the Salvation Army; G. H. Marter, M.P.P., Robert Hall, Rev. T. C. Desbarres.

President J. K. Macdonald gave a brief sketch of the work already done by the Society, mapped out what it was doing and what it desired to do. He spoke warmly of the work done for the Society by its founder, Mr. J. J. Kelso, who in consequence of other engagements was no

longer one of their Vice-Presidents. It afforded the society especial pleasure to have the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen with them.

In reply the Governor-General said it must be admitted that no better test of the civilization and Christianity of any community or country can be found than the care and protection of children. And yet in many communities in which a great advance has been made in the externals at least of civilization and religion there has not been that care of the health, moral and physical, of the children. A great awakening had taken place in this respect. He referred chiefly to Great Britain, but it was so also in other countries. It had for years been in some countries penal to treat with barbarity a horse or a dog, but not a child. Happily that sentiment and antiquated notion, held often by very unsentimental people, of the absolute authority of parents was being got rid of. There had been in the past a great amount of ignorance in the matter of cruelty to children, and he illustrated this statement by telling of the organization of a society for the prevention of cruelty to children in a city in the Old Country. A great deal of indignation was expressed by the people of the town that the idea that any real cases of cruelty existed, but before the society had been organized six months so many cases had been brought up in the courts that its permanent existence was assured. Happily Toronto had such a society, The work of this society, too, was most comprehensive. It had power not only in cases of actual cruelty but it had power to prevent children from falling into crime. For this power they should all unite in thanking and congratulating the Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Gibson. His Excellency also spoke in terms of commendation of the institution of the Shelter. He concluded also by pointing out the claims which the Society undoubtedly had on the community at large. He then called on Hon. J. M. Gibson to move the adoption of the annual report and the election of officers.

Mr. Gibson made a capital address, in which he gave a clear outline of the workings of the bill of which he was the author, and what might be expected in the way of reform through its operations.

The resolution was seconded by Hon. Senator Allan.

Excellent addresses were given by Mr. G. F. Marter, M.P.P., and Hon. Richard Harcourt introducing the following motion: That having regard not only to the work which has already been done by the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, but also to the possibilities for increased usefulness afforded by the Children's Protection Act, this meeting commends the Society to the hearty and generous support of the public.

His Excellency thanked the President and those present for the cordial reception accorded himself and Lady Aberdeen, and the meeting closed with the national anthem.

TO SECURE ONTARIO LEGISLATION.

The Children's Aid Society having been successfully launched, proceeded at once to devote all its energies to the securing of legislation from the Ontario Government.

For this purpose an Ontario prison reform conference was called by Dr. Rosebrugh, the meeting taking place in the Normal School Building, on November 27, 1891. The great interest taken in the subject was evidenced by a large attendance from various parts of the Province. Mr. G. A. Meredith, LL.D., the veteran ex-Commissioner of Charities and Prisons for Upper Canada, occupied the chair, and, after a number of addresses, showing the great necessity that existed for better laws dealing with the care and protection of children, arrangements were made to lay the whole matter before the Premier, Sir Oliver Mowat.



CANADIAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION.

The humane movement had become so popular that it was felt desirable to bring about a federation of the various humane societies of Canada; and, at a large meeting held in the Normal School Hall in June, 1892, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Kelso:

"That this meeting considers it desirable that a Canadian Humane Association should be organized for the purpose of encouraging the formation of humane societies in the various cities and towns of Canada, for the securing of improved legislation, and in order to deal more effectively with the larger questions affecting the protection of dumb animals from abuse, and encouraging a humane sentiment among all classes of the people."

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Adam Brown, of Hamilton, and a committee was appointed to carry out the details. A good deal of prominence was given to life-saving, and in the course of time it developed into the Royal Canadian Humane Association, with Mr. Adam Brown as president. During the past ten years it has distributed many medals and certificates, in recognition of deeds of bravery, but the educational and federative work contemplated was not taken up.

ONTARIO PRESS GALLERY.

All this time the activities of a journalistic career had to be carried on. Reporting the legislative proceedings for the *Globe*, acting

as official stenographer to the Public Accounts Committee, and the numerous calls of philanthropy, meant daily duties of an arduous character, occupying at least seventeen of the entire twenty-four hours. When the press representatives assembled at the beginning of the session of 1893, the election of officers for the Press Gallery of the Ontario Legislature resulted as follows:

President—J. J. Kelso, Globe.

Vice-President—J. M. Jackson, Mail.

Secretary—Roden Kingsmill, Telegram.

Executive Committee—C. T. Long, Empire; A. Bremner, Free Press; A. M. Burns, News; J. W. Wilkinson, World, and C. F. Hamilton, Star.

LEGISLATION GRANTED.

In the latter part of 1892 Sir Oliver Mowat made the announcement that the Ontario Government had decided to introduce the best law for the care and protection of children that could be devised, and that the Provincial Secretary, Hon. J. M. Gibson, had been entrusted with the task of preparing it. The work was wisely and faithfully done, and when the Ontario Legislature met in February, 1893, Mr. Gibson introduced a bill "for the prevention of cruelty to and better protection of children." It proved acceptable to all parties, and was finally sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor in May, 1893.

SUPERINTENDENT.

When the Legislature adjourned the Provincial Secretary sent for Mr. Kelso, who in May, 1893, accepted appointment as "Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario." The subsequent history of this great philanthropic movement will be found in the eighteen Annual Reports issued by the Children's Branch of the Public Service, and all the varied social activities that have been stimulated or brought into existence since that time not only in Toronto and the Province of Ontario but throughout Canada.



1909