

THE
Eighteenth Annual Report

OF THE
HALIFAX ASSOCIATION

FOR
IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR,

FOR THE
YEAR 1884.

WITH A LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS, ETC.

Organized December 27, 1866.

Incorporated April 19, 1884.

HALIFAX:
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY.
1884.

THE
HALIFAX ASSOCIATION
FOR
Improving the Condition of the Poor.

OFFICE-BEARERS:

President

JOHN DOULL

Vice-President

W. H. NEAL

Superbisors

S. M. BROOKFIELD

JAMES FORREST

JOHN H. SYMONS

JOHN FARQUHARSON

WILLIAM DUNBAR

H. P. BURTON

Treasurer

W. L. LOWELL

Secretary

DAVID BLACKWOOD

Auditors

S. M. BROOKFIELD

JAMES FARQUHAR

Superintendents of Stone Shed

W. H. NEAL

H. P. BURTON

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ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

The annual meeting of the above Association, was held in the Class Room, of the Y. M. C. A. building on Friday afternoon, 28th Nov., 1884, a very respectable audience being in attendance.

The Secretary read the reports, as under, which, on motion were unanimously adopted and ordered to be printed for circulation as customary.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the Eighteenth Annual Report, the Directors of the Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of \$1300.50 in donations, particulars of which have already been acknowledged in the daily press by the Treasurer, and will also be found in the list at the close of this report.

The rooms kindly placed at the disposal of the Directors by the President without any charge for rent have been used for a second year as offices during the winter season. But on account of building repairs being now under way they can no longer be had for the purpose and suitable premises are required. Mr. R. G. Halls efficiently discharged the office work and has compiled for

the use of the Board an indexed history of the various families applying for relief, which is of great value in considering claims for aid.

Mr. Alexander McDougall was the visitor for the Association, and by his thorough investigation, numerous cases of unworthy applicants were disposed of and misappropriation of the funds prevented. Daily attendance at the office was given by the President, Messrs. James Forrest, John Farquharson and John Symons, and all cases received due attention.

A quantity of clothing was received from mercantile firms and private citizens, receipt of which was acknowledged in the press, and which was distributed among poor families of deserving character, and aided somewhat to ward off the cold of winter.

INTEREST DUE BY THE CITY.

A bill for Interest to which reference was made as follows in last year's report is still unpaid.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that the amounts reported last year as due from the city for broken stone have been paid. In consequence of no provision in the appropriation having been made to cover interest, the face of the bills only was paid. It is hoped, however, that a spirit of equity will rule the deliberations of the City Council, and that a bill for interest, which has been submitted, will be provided for. It would be wholly unfair that a charitable association, should be required to borrow money from a bank and pay interest thereon in order that a wealthy city should have the use of the money for over two years in one instance for nothing."

This bill amounting to \$337.50 was reported upon and adopted by the City Council in November last. But provision having been made that the amount should be paid out of arrears of taxes, and these not having realized the amount expected from them, there were no funds applicable to the liquidation of the claim.

RELIEF GRANTED.

During the season the number of families relieved was 325. Of these 166 were new applicants, and 159 were recipients of relief in 1883. The members of the 325 families numbered 1146. The stores issued were as follows 4202 bushels of coal, 2206 loaves of bread, 3712 pounds of oatmeal, 241 gallons of molasses, 124 pounds of tea, 113 pounds of sugar and 14 bushels of potatoes, costing in all \$1124.51 as against \$938.48 in the preceding year.

BEQUESTS.

The Bequests which have been received in former years are included in the deposit of \$1100 which appears as a part of the balance in the Treasurer's hands. The Directors have been advised that by the will of Mr. Hugh Elliot a portion of the proceeds of his real estate estimated to produce \$1500 will be in hand so soon as the real estate can be sold. In the mean time an advance of \$97.79 was paid to liquidate expenses connected with the settlement of the estate. They have also been informed that the late Edward Smith Esq., who always took a deep interest in the Association's work, has provided in his will that \$1000 shall be invested, so that the interest may be applied towards the objects of the Association.

The statistics of the stone shed, managed by Messrs. W. H. Neal and H. P. Burton, are appended to the report. The use of the sheds in the Exhibition grounds was granted by the Board of Works for shelter to the men breaking the stone. At the rate of 6 cents per bushel, without any charge for management or for interest on the capital, requiring to be advanced for payment of laborer and purchase of stone, there was a small loss amounting to \$12.57 on the years operations. The Directors are pleased to announce that the Board of Works have agreed to take the winter's stone of 1885 at the same rate, and Mr. Neal is about laying in a stock of stone to be ready for opening the sheds at the usual time.

The thanks of the Directors are due to the City Press for kindly aiding their work by notices and acknowledgements free of charge.

JOHN DOULL,
Chairman.

Report of work done at Stone Shed in January, February and March of 1884.

		Paid for Stone.	No. bushels broken.	Paid wages break. stone.	Repairs, &c.	Overseers, &c.
1884.						
January	11.....	\$23 13	1542	\$ 46 26	\$ 3 40	\$11 25
"	18.....	34 29	2286	68 58		15 63
"	22.....	42 75	2340	108 90	1 92	15
February	1.....	47 07	3138	119 64	1 46	15
"	8.....	43 26	2884	110 78	41 07	15
"	15.....	55 26	3684	139 54	7 60	15
"	22.....	47 76	3184	120 78		15
"	29.....	46 17	3078	115 56		15
March	7.....	35 88	2392	91 40		12
"	14.....	30 90	2060	78 40	30	15
"	21.....	36 21	2414	89 42	2 00	15
"	28.....	23 40	1560	60 32	2 00	12
		\$466 08	30,562	\$1149 58	\$59 75	\$170 88

Total bushels stone broken, 30,562, @ City price, 6 cts. \$1833 72

Amount paid for stone.....\$ 466 08

" " breaking do..... 1149 58

" " repairs..... 59 75

" " overseers, &c. &c..... 170 88

Shewing a loss to the Association on stone.....\$ 12 57

Add interest on outlay from Jan. 11 to Sept. 18; at which time the stone was paid for by the City..... 41 94

Total loss of the Association on sale of stone.....\$ 54 51

MEMO.—Overseers Expenses—This includes general oversight, tally keeping of quantity broken, shovelling snow, &c., &c., also partly putting new handles in hammers, sledges, &c.

Repairs—This includes repairs of hammers, sledges, and wheelbarrows, also providing new ones when required.

Stock on hand—13 wheelbarrows, 17 sledges, 66 hammers, 15 shovels, 5 pickaxes, 1 hatchet, 1 spokeshave.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the services of H. P. Burton, Esq., who had entire charge of the shed during February and the greater part of March, and who rendered most valuable assistance during the whole time the shed was in operation.

For coming season of 1885, I beg to report I have concluded an arrangement with the City for 30,000 bushels of broken stone at same price as last year, 6 cents. While this does not give the actual cost,—the loss is comparatively small in proportion to the desirable object of providing work for all who choose to apply for it during the months of January, February and March. At same time it does seem unfair to be obliged to lose over \$50 to furnish the city with broken stone at less than actual cost, still as the 6 cents is the best offer we can get we must perforce accept of it. We are quite sure that furnished by the prison labor at Rockhead, in reality, cost the City very considerably more.

W. H. NEAL,
Chairman.

NOTE.—As soon as an office is obtained, due notice thereof will be given in the daily papers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :

President—JOHN DOULL.

Vice-President—W. H. NEAL.

Secretary—D. BLACKWOOD.

Supervisors of Districts—S. M. BROOKFIELD.

JOHN H. SYMONS.

JAMES FORREST.

JOHN FARQUHARSON.

WILLIAM DUNBAR.

H. P. BURTON.

with power to add to their number or substitute alternates.

Auditors—S. M. BROOKFIELD, and JAMES FARQUHAR.

The meeting adjourned.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

DR. *Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, in acct. with the Treasurer.* Cr.

1884.		1883.			
Nov. 18.	To paid Clerk of Association.....	\$ 65 00	Oct. 18.	By Cash on Deposit with Bank of N. S.....	\$1100 00
	" Inspector.....	78 00		By Cash on call in hands of Treasurer.....	220 16
	" Labor and stone, &c., Stone Shed..	1846 29	1884.		
	To Relief in Groceries.....	217 26	Nov. 18.	By general subscription list 1883-4.....	1285 50
	" Bread.....	179 23		By received from City for Broken Stone.....	1833 72
	" Coals.....	680 85		By Wedding Donation, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wesendonck.....	15 00
	To sundry small accounts.....	14 02		By interest on deposit receipt.....	57 01
	To N. S. Printing Co., acct.....	22 50			
	To estate H. Elliott, expenses in connection with legacy.....	97 79			
	To interest overdrawn account on account of stone breaking.....	41 94			
	To Balance forward.....	1268 51			
		<u>\$4511 39</u>			<u>\$4511 39</u>
			1884.		
			Nov. 18.	By amt. on deposit Bank of Nova Scotia.....	\$1100 00
				By Cash on call in Treasurer's hands.....	168 51
					<u>\$1268 51</u>

Examined and found correct.

JAMES FARQUHAR, Auditor.

W. L. LOWELL, Treasurer,
By J. LYLE.

The following Act of Incorporation was obtained and is here inserted for the information of friends of the Association.

CHAPTER 65.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR.

(Passed the 19th Day of April, A. D. 1884.)

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows :

1. John Doull, William H. Neal, Samuel M. Brookfield, William L. Lowell, and such other persons as now are or shall hereafter become members of the Association hereby incorporated, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor."
2. The Association hereby incorporated may take, purchase and hold real estate and personal property, and may sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of the same for the purposes of the said Association.
3. The Association hereby incorporated shall have power to make by-laws, rules and regulations for the government of the said Association, the admission of members, the appointment of officers, and for the promotion and carrying out of its purposes.
4. The annual meeting of the said Association shall be held in the month of November in each year, and at such annual meetings the officers of the Association for the then next ensuing year shall be appointed. The persons who at the passing of this Act hold office in the said Association shall continue to be the officers thereof until the first annual meeting is held.
5. No officer or member of the Association hereby incorporated shall be liable for any debt or obligation of the said Association, unless he shall agree to be answerable therefor.

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ABSTRACT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES BY WHICH THE
ASSOCIATION IS TO BE GOVERNED.

1. To consider each applicant for relief as entitled to charity until a careful examination prove the contrary.
2. To give relief only after a personal investigation of each case, by visitation and enquiry.
3. To relieve no one except through the visitor of the section in which the applicant lives.
4. To give the necessary articles, and only what is immediately necessary.
5. To give what is least susceptible of abuse.
6. To give only in small quantities, and in proportion only to immediate need ; and of coarser quality than might be procured by labor, except in cases of sickness.
7. To give assistance at the right moment ; not to prolong it beyond the duration of the necessity which calls for it ; but to extend, restrict, and modify relief according to that necessity.
8. To require of each beneficiary abstinence from intoxicating liquor as a drink; of such as have young children of a proper age that they be kept at school, unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances ; and that those of suitable years be apprenticed to some trade, or sent to service. The design being to make the poor parties to their own improvement and elevation ; the wilful violation or disregard of these rules shall debar them from further relief.
9. To give no aid to persons who, from infirmity, imbecility old age, or any other cause, are likely to continue unable to earn their own support, and consequently to be permanently dependant, except in extreme cases, for two or three days until they can be referred to the Commissioners of the Poor, or the churches to which they belong.

10. To discontinue relief to all who manifest a purpose to depend on alms, rather than on their own exertions for support, and whose further maintenance would be incompatible with their good and the objects of the Association.

IN all cases of want coming to the notice of the visitors, they will be expected to perform the same duties, although no application has been made. It shall be their duty moreover, to render a written report of their labors, and also an account of their disbursements, to their respective Supervisors, at the stated monthly meeting.

Most of the Rules will, doubtless, commend themselves at once to approval. As it respects others, the propriety of which may appear less obvious, the following explanations are offered :

In the 9th Rule the permanently dependent are not regarded as proper subjects for relief, because, if they should continue to be relieved, the entire funds of the Association would soon be exhausted in the support of a permanent list ; and its primary objects—the elevation of the moral and physical condition of the poor—be defeated. Such persons should become a public charge, which is far preferable to reliance on incidental relief.

The 10th Rule refers to those who have become so pauperized in spirit by long-continued vagrancy or gratuitous relief or so debased by other causes, that there is no hope of inciting them to self-support and to aid whom would encourage sin and indolence, and foster a great social evil.

The complaints of unrelieved applicants who have been sent to the Association should not be listened to, until they have procured a card from the visitor *for a card assigning the reason of refusal should always be given to the unrelieved applicants*, which, if produced, will show why he was not relieved ; and, if unproduced, a proof that he has been attended to. In either case, the member will thus be made acquainted with the action of the visitor, and the reason for it.

Two or three important results involved in the observance of the foregoing rules deserve notice. First, by refusing aid to the persons described, none are necessarily left to suffer. Even those who constantly persist in their vicious courses, and cannot be relieved without injury to them and the community, still have a resource in the legal relief provided by the Commissioners of the Poor; so that all are cared for. Second, the Association does not supersede existing charities, but, so far as practical, makes them available for those for whom they are designed. Third, that it is governed by such humane and economical considerations as have most important moral and social bearings on the individuals concerned, and the public.

☞ Visitors, in complying with the foregoing Rules, should carefully direct their attention to such particulars bearing on the different classes indicated therein, as will qualify them for an intelligent and judicious discharge of their highly important and responsible duties.

☞ The attention of members is also called to the said Rules, and the co-operation with the visitors most earnestly solicited, for, without it, the great and difficult work in which the Association is engaged cannot be effectually accomplished.

☞ It will be noted that relief is granted without distinction of class or creed.

SUPERVISORS OF DISTRICTS.

District One.—WARDS ONE AND TWO.

S. M. BROOKFIELD

WILLIAM DUNBAR

District Two.—WARDS THREE AND FOUR.

JOHN H. SYMONS

H. P. BURTON

District Three.—WARD FIVE.

JAMES FORREST

District Four.—WARD SIX.

JOHN FARQUHARSON

Excurs
His L
S
- Doull
- J. P. M
Edwar
- John G
- Sir W
- M P.
- Mrs. F
Lawso
- Farqu
Duffu
- Burns
- D. Cro
- Hon. L
- T. A.
- Judge
- T. E. M
- J. A. M
- Hon. F
- X. Y. S
- S. Cun
- T. S. B
McK. J
- H. Hes
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- H. Mel
Friend
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- P. Lyn
- Thoma
- Dun, W
- R. W.
- Peter J
- L. H.
- W. G. I

REPORT.

- F. H. Reynolds	5 00	Friend	4 00
- C. Macdonald	5 00	P. Coffin	4 00
Friend	....	5 00	J. S.	....	4 00
Rev. Dr. Pollock	....	5 00	S.	....	4 00
Deaf Mutes, per J. S. Hutton	....	5 00	M. J. McCurdy	....	4 00
- A. P. Reid, M. D.	....	5 00	C. R.	....	4 00
P. Crichton	....	5 00	Creighton & Marshall	....	4 00
M. L. B.	....	5 00	E. Lloyd	....	2 00
- T. M. Braine	....	5 00	X. Y. Z.	....	2 00
- P. Ross	....	5 00	T. Duncanson	....	2 00
E. D Adams	....	5 00	J. Burgoyne	....	2 00
- G. Thomson	....	5 00	No. 27	....	2 00
- J. H. Symons	....	5 00	Friend, per D. B.	....	2 50
W. B. Reynolds	....	5 00	M. M.	....	1 00
Offering, per Rev. F. R. Murray.	....	5 00			
Mayor Fraser	....	5 00			\$1300 50
Mrs. Fraser	....	5 00			
- C. C. Blackadar	....	5 00			

W. L. LOWELL, *Treas.*