

THE

Seventeenth Annual Report

OF THE

HALIFAX ASSOCIATION

FOR

Improving the Condition of the Poor,

OFFICE-BEARERS

FOR THE

YEAR 1883.

YEAR 1883.

W. H. KYLE

WITH A LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS, ETC.

ORGANIZED DECEMBER 27, 1866.

HALIFAX:

NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY.

1883.

THE
HALIFAX ASSOCIATION
FOR

Improving the Condition of the Poor.

OFFICE-BEARERS

President

JOHN DOULL

Vice-President

W. H. NEAL

Supervisors

S. M. BROOKFIELD

JAMES FORREST

JOHN H. SYMONS

JOHN FARQUHARSON

Treasurer

W. L. LOWELL

Secretary

DAVID BLACKWOOD

Auditors

S. M. BROOKFIELD

JAMES FARQUHAR

Halifax

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ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

The annual meeting of the above association, which has done so much every winter towards alleviating the distress of our city poor, was held in the parlor of the Y. M. C. A. building on Friday afternoon, 7th December, 1883, a very respectable audience being in attendance.

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

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Directors of the Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor have now the pleasure to present the Seventeenth Annual Report. They have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of \$1,217.21 in donations, particulars of which will be found in the list attached to the statement of the Treasurer.

In accordance with the plan proposed in last report, a change was made to having an office with a clerk in charge and a paid visitor to inquire into the cases of applicants and distribute relief where required. By the kindness of the President suitable rooms in Bedford Row were placed at the disposal of the directors without any charge for rent. Mr. R. G. Halls very efficiently discharged the office duties and Mr. Alex. McDougall attended to the work of visiting. In

this way the faithful administration of the funds at the directors disposal was ensured. Daily attendance was given by the President, Messrs. James Forrest, John Farquharson, and John Symons, and the directors at the office and all cases were disposed of after mature deliberation. The plan, though not as yet perfect in every particular, was found to work well, and it is proposed to continue it with some modification.

PAYMENT BY THE CITY.

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.

RELIEF GRANTED.

During the season from Jan. 8th to April 7th there were issued as follows: Coal, 3,441 bushels; bread, 2,254 loaves; oatmeal, 2,840 pounds; molasses, 102 gallons; tea, 73 pounds; sugar, 193 pounds.

STATISTICS OF THOSE RELIEVED.

Three hundred and twenty families, composed of 1,201 members, shared in the distribution. Of course many of these have only a nominal connection with any religious body, but, taking their own representation of their religion, the figures stand as follows:—Roman Catholic, 56; Presbyterian, 28; Methodist, 44; Baptist, 54; Episcopal, 98; Missions, 50; total, 320 families.

Thanks are due to several friends who contributed to the furnishing of the rooms used as offices in Bedford Row.

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The bequests which have been received in former years are included in the deposit receipt which appears as a part of the balance in the Treasurer's hands.

The following letter was received from the Secretary of the Dispensary, and in response the sum of thirty dollars was handed the Directors of the Dispensary, to be expended on behalf of sick poor under the supervision of the medical gentlemen in charge, with an intimation that a further sum would be voted when required. It has afforded your Directors much pleasure to be thus able to minister to pressing cases of want of proper nourishment during sickness.

Extract from the Report of the Medical Board of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary, 1882 :

"In former reports attention has been called to the fact that in many cases *proper nourishment* was of greater necessity than medicine. We suggest that a basis of co-operation should be established between the visiting physicians and the 'societies for improving the condition of the poor,' so that the physician might be in a position to supply nourishment when needed, as agents of those societies, and at the same time inform them concerning persons who feign sickness to obtain relief—a very common practice."

HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY, }
March 9th, 1883. }

D. BLACKWOOD, ESQ., *Secretary Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor :*

DEAR SIR,—By request of the Directors of the Dispensary, I beg to enclose you a recommendation made by the physicians in their annual report of 1882, relative to the means of supplying suitable food to the sick poor in certain cases. This matter has been several times brought to the notice of the Board by the Medical Staff of the Dispensary, but they have not been in a position to deal with it, for the reasons :

1st, That it is not one of the objects contemplated or provided for by the Dispensary Society ; 2nd, That the funds and resources of the Dispensary are too limited and precarious to admit of such an undertaking ; and 3rd, That it would be

much more difficult to carry it out satisfactorily at the Dispensary than by co-operation with a distinct society or association.

The directors, therefore, desire to submit the subject to your Association, with the hope that it may have favorable consideration; and they make the suggestion that a certain sum might be set side annually, upon which (under definite arrangements) the Dispensary could draw as might be needful or most beneficial to patients requiring nutrition.

There are many cases where *mal nutrition* or absence of food altogether, tends to frustrate the efforts of the doctor, or to precipitate fatal results. There may be also instances of persons applying for aid to the Association on the plea of sickness at home where, if the doctors certificates were first required, misplaced charity or imposition would be obviated.

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

WM. H. WISWELL,

Sec. Halifax Visiting Dispensary.

FOR SEASON OF 1884.

The office will again be opened in 14 Bedford Row, and any correspondence addressed there will receive prompt attention.

Contributions will be received by the Treasurer at the banking house of Messrs. W. L. Lowell & Co., and it is hoped that the same large hearted liberality which has marked the past, and has relieved so much poverty and distress during the winter season, will again respond and enable the directors to carry on the same work.

J. DOULL, *President.*

A discussion took place on the subject of maintaining the stone sheds, as in the past, for winter labor for unemployed men. It was stated that by this means stone could be furnished the city cheaper than by prison labor or any other means. The stone-crushing machine purchased by the city was said to be found unsuitable for the purpose required, not

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turning out stone of the proper size or shape, and it was agreed to start the shed again under the superintendance of Mr. W. H. Neal, with the assistance of Mr. H. P. Burton, if an arrangement could be made with the City Board of Works to obtain a fair price for the broken stone. The manner of running the sheds was stated by Mr. Neal to be the obtaining of stone at a cost of hauling of about 15 cents per a load of 1,500 lbs, which was at the rate of a cent and a quarter a bushel for the twelve bushels of broken stone such lead on an average would turn out. It was broken at the rate of three cents per bushel, (which was too low a price,) with two or three overseers (old men unfit for other work) at 50 cents per day, and a boss at a dollar a day. Payment at 6 cents per bushel would therefore cover all costs and enable the sheds to work satisfactorily. It was intimated that if the industry was opened again the old unsightly and objectionable buildings near the Public Gardens might be removed and some of the outbuildings on the Exhibition grounds obtained for the purpose, which statement was received with satisfaction.

The President, and Vice-President were, on motion, elected a committee to secure an Act of Incorporation for the Association to enable it to hold real estate in case of bequests, etc.

HOW TO AID THE POOR.

A very interesting discussion took place on the general subject of how to make the efforts of the Association of greater efficiency in relieving actual distress, and especially of rescuing the young from degradation.

Rev. Mr. Murray strongly deplored street begging, and urged the use of all means to prevent it, stating methods employed in former scenes of his labors in England and Newfoundland.

Many interesting cases were cited of difficulties in dealing with the poor which had come under previous notice of the Association.

Mr. John Naylor stated the difficulties the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty had had in their work. The trouble was, there was no proper place for young beggar waifs. The City Stipendiary preferred to discharge them from custody in the majority of cases rather than send them to Rockhead, and it was better for their morals to do so. Of course some boys could be sent to the Protestant Industrial School, and many more might be sent to that institution, as its capacity is much greater than its attendance, if the means (\$40 per annum per boy) were forthcoming from churches or any other source. But for Roman Catholic children and Protestant girls there was no place of rescue. The Catholics had for some years mooted an industrial school of their own but had not established it, although there was a bequest standing in aid of one. The city had also power to borrow money to erect a reformatory, yet the city fathers had never taken the requisite action to provide such an institution. A good reformatory would answer all purposes effectively, and is what is wanted.

The idea of the reformatory met with general approval, and it was resolved on the motion of Rev. Mr. Laing and Mr. Farquhar, that the President, Vice-President and Secretary be a committee, with power to add to their number, to agitate for a reformatory, interview the City Council on the subject, also approach the Roman Catholic authorities about it, and do all in their power to further the aims of the association in this respect.

The practice of street begging was by all denounced, and citizens advised by every means to discountenance it, as all cases sent to the Association will be promptly looked into by the visitor and attended to.

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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—1. S. M. BROOKFIELD.

2. JOHN H. SYMONS.

3. JAMES FORREST.

4. JOHN FARQUHARSON.

with power to add to their number or substitute alternates.

Auditors—S. M. BROOKFIELD and JAMES FARQUHAR.

The meeting adjourned.

NOTE.

Thanks are due to the city press for free notices, in particular the *Acadian Recorder*, *Morning Herald* and *Evening Mail*, and the *Morning Chronicle* and *Citizen and Evening Chronicle*. The notice of the Annual Meeting, which was prepared by a reporter of the *Morning Chronicle*, has been appended to the Report in a condensed form.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

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

1882.	To balance due Union Bank	\$2085 28	1882.	By amount received from City for Broken Stone delivered in 1882	\$ 203 76
1883.	Paid Union Bank Interest	51 09	29.	Interest on Bequest of A. K. Doull.....	118 00
June 26.	Paid for Coal, Groceries and Bread.....	938 48	1883.	Proceeds of Concert	224 15
Jan to May.	Paid salaries of Visiting Inspector and Secretary, in attendance at office. ..	130 00		Subscriptions as per detailed list	1217 21
	Paid for Printing Report and forms ..	20 75	June 26.	Amount received from City for Stone delivered in 1881	2812 64
	Paid Halifax Visiting Dispensary for food for sick poor	30 00			
	To Balance forward	1320 16			
		<u>\$4575 76</u>			<u>\$4575 76</u>

1883. Oct. 18. By Balance brought down, as follows:
 Deposited with Bank of Nova Scotia, at interest, from July 14th.....\$1100 00
 Cash on call in Treasurer's hands

\$1320 16

W. L. LOWELL,
Treasurer.

S. M. BROOKFIELD, }
JAMES FARQUHAR, }
Auditors

Examined and found correct.

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Treasurer.

Auditors
JAMES FARQUHAR,

Examined and found correct.

**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 proves 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 dependant 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

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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 supercede existing charities but so far as is 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.

District Two.—WARDS THREE AND FOUR.

J. H. SYMONS.

District Three.—WARD FIVE.

JAMES FORREST.

District Four.—WARD SIX.

JOHN FARQUHARSON.

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Dr. Aven
McI. &
Mrs. E.
T. & E.
Thos R
H. Hessel
Friend
Bankers
W. Hedl
George I
J. R. Litt
Mrs. C. T
Mrs. W.
Rev. Dr.

CONTRIBUTIONS

TO

"Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor,"

1882-3.

Friend, London, per J. S.			
Maclean	.....\$	96 89	
Doull & Miller & Co	....	50 00	
J. P. Mott	....	50 00	
His Lordship the Bishop of Nova Scotia	....	30 00	
J. A. Moren	....	30 00	
Sir Wm. Young	.....	30 00	
M. P. Black	....	25 00	
A. & W. Smith	....	25 00	
Burns & Murray	....	25 00	
J. Gibson	....	25 00	
F. Forrest & Co	....	25 00	
Edward Smith	....	25 00	
Sir P. L. MacDougall	....	20 00	
Hon. J. W. Ritchie	....	20 00	
T. A. Ritchie	....	20 00	
Mr. Musgrove	....	20 00	
T. S. Reid, Hamilton, Ber- muda	....	20 00	
Hon. R. Boak	....	20 00	
D. Cronan	....	20 00	
H.	....	20 00	
E. R. L.	....	20 00	
Dr. Avery	....	20 00	
McI. & McI.	....	20 00	
Mrs. E. Binney	....	20 00	
T. & E. Kenny	....	20 00	
Thos Ritchie	....	15 00	
H. Hesslein & Sons	....	15 00	
Friend	....	15 00	
Bankers Magdalene Club	....	14 00	
W. Hedley	....	10 00	
George Fraser	....	10 00	
J. R. Lithgow	....	10 00	
Mrs. C. E. Wiswell	....	10 00	
Mrs. W. P. West	....	10 00	
Rev. Dr. Burns	....	10 00	
K. McLea	.....\$	10 00	
W. & C. Silver	....	10 00	
W. Jordan	....	10 00	
J. Farquharson	....	10 00	
Mrs. J. Northup	....	10 00	
S. S. B. Smith	....	10 00	
G. Thomson	....	10 00	
J. N. Ritchie	....	10 00	
Mrs. Ritchie	....	10 00	
Peter Crichton.	....	10 00	
C. J. Gibson	....	10 00	
Mrs. Alex. Doull	....	10 00	
Alex. Doull	....	10 00	
Buckley & Allan	....	10 00	
Peter Jack	....	10 00	
R. W. Fraser	....	10 00	
T. B. Aikins	....	10 00	
Muir & Blackader	....	10 00	
W. L. Lowell & Co	....	10 00	
Friend	....	10 00	
No name	....	6 00	
Chalmers Church	....	5 00	
T. Forhan	....	5 00	
Mrs. L. A. Wilmot	....	5 00	
Miss C. H. Black	....	5 00	
A. Duffield	....	5 00	
Mrs. D. Allison	....	5 00	
No name	....	5 00	
F. H. Reynolds	....	5 00	
Mrs. W. B. Fairbanks	....	5 00	
J. W. Symonds	....	5 00	
A. Stephen & Son	....	5 00	
Hugh Elliott	....	5 00	
M. S. R.	....	5 00	
Mrs. C. J. Gibson	....	5 00	
J. R. Ronald	....	5 00	
W. K. Reynolds	....	5 00	
C. C. Blackader	....	5 00	

