

REPORT

OF

The Halifax Dispensary.

FOR THE YEAR

1898.

RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

HALIFAX, N. S. :
HOLLOWAY BROS., PRINTERS, 69 & 71 GRANVILLE ST.,
1899.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.



REPORT

OF

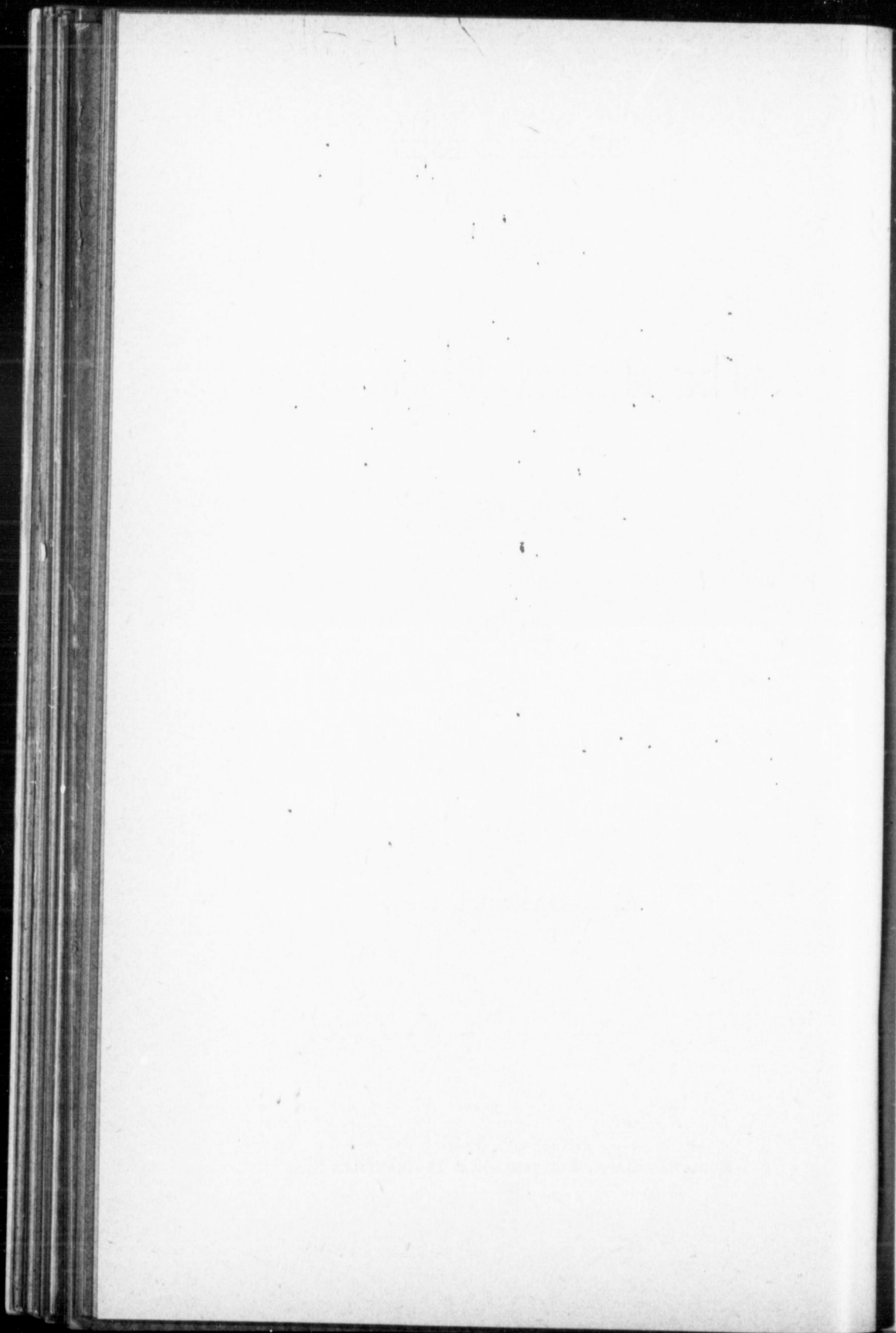
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Halifax Dispensary, 1899.

President.

W. C. SILVER.

Vice-Presidents.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND HON. H. H. FULLER.

Directors.

WM. DUNBAR, CHAS. ARCHIBALD,
ROBERT TAYLOR, A. M. BELL,
Hon. SENATOR POWER, WILLIAM ROBERTSON,
J. F. KENNY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Secretary.

W. H. WISWELL,

Consulting Physicians.

DRS. HON. D. McN. PARKER, DRs. EDWARD FARRELL,
D. A. CAMPBELL, J. F. BLACK,
F. U. ANDERSON, M. A. CURRY.

Attending Physicians.

EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.—DR. S. DODGE.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. JAMES ROSS.
SURGICAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. A. F. BUCKLEY.
WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.—DR. WALLACE.
DENTAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. E. P. ENNIS.

Visiting Physicians.

DRs. W. F. SMITH, North District 1.
O'SHAUGHNESSY, " " 2.
F. A. R. GOW, Central District.
L. M. SILVER, South "

Apothecary and Dispenser.

E. F. LUGRIN.

House Committee.

WM. DUNBAR, W. ROBERTSON,
R. TAYLOR, Hon. L. G. POWER.

Dartmouth Branch.—General Physician.

DR. CHAS. J. GOSSIP.

Auditors.

ROBERT TAYLOR AND WM. ROBERTSON.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HALIFAX VISITING
DISPENSARY.

(Passed the 18th day of April, A. D., 1872.)

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

1. James C. Cochran, James Cochran, William Dunbar, John S. Maclean, George M. Grant, Henry N. Paint, Thomas E. Kenny, William H. Neal, D. Henry Starr, John Doull, and their associates, for the medical treatment of the sick poor in the City of Halifax, known as the "Halifax Visiting Dispensary," and such other persons as shall be members of the Association, according to the Rules and By-Laws thereof, are hereby Incorporated under the name of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary.

2. The corporation may purchase, take, hold, and enjoy real estate to the value of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars, and may sell, mortgage, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of the same for the benefit of the Dispensary and the furtherance of its objects.

3. The present Constitution and By-Laws of the Dispensary shall be valid legally binding until altered or repealed.

4. All property, real and personal, and all debts and liabilities of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary, are vested in the corporation hereby created, who may collect all arrears due to them under the present By-Laws and Rules of the Dispensary.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called "The Halifax Visiting Dispensary."

II.

The object of this Society shall be to provide and furnish medical and surgical aid, and medicines, to such persons as may be in need thereof, and unable, by reason of poverty, to procure the same.

III.

Any person paying annually the sum of Four Dollars shall be a member of the Society, and a subscription of Forty Dollars constitutes a member for life.

IV.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings to enforce the Constitution and By-Laws, and to call special meetings when required. In his absence one of the Vice-Presidents shall perform these duties.

V.

The duty of the Secretary shall be to collect all subscriptions and dues to the Society, to pay over all monies received by him to the Treasurer, and report to the Directors annually, or as often as they may require it, and keep reports of all meetings. Also to give notice of the same, examine accounts, and conduct correspondence as may be required.

VI.

The duty of the Treasurer shall be to receive all monies payable to the Society, to keep all financial accounts, and make payments as directed by the President and Secretary.

VII.

There shall be a Board of Consulting Physicians, composed of five members.

VIII.

A code of By-Laws shall be appended to the Constitution, embodying necessary details.

IX.

A general meeting of the Society shall be held annually on the second Monday in January, at which the President and Directors shall submit a Report of the proceedings of the previous year, and a Board of Directors for the ensuing year shall be appointed.

X.

This Constitution shall not be altered, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, and not unless one month's notice shall be given to the Society, through the Secretary, of the proposed alteration.

THE HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY.

The Annual Meeting of the Dispensary was held Monday, January 9th, 1899, at their rooms at 4 p. m., when the customary Annual Reports were read and adopted and the Directors and Officials elected for the current year.

THE DIRECTORS' REPORT for the Year ended 31st December, 1898.

The Directors of the Dispensary, in common with other incorporated societies are expected to report annually.

Herewith they submit the undertakings, doings and condition of this old and useful Charity whose affairs they supervise and regulate.

So far as they personally represent the Institution, their yearly reports might be stereotyped, and to say anything new or interesting from their special standpoint is difficult and doubtless unnecessary.

They delegate to the Active Medical Staff, composing the several Departments, the duty of informing the subscribers and friends, past, present and to come, the statistics of the work done during the past twelve months, with such explanations and comments on the results of that work as may seem useful and desirable.

A WORK OF MERCY.

The main features of the excellent and extensive duties performed by the visiting and local Physicians, the Eye and Ear Department, the Dentist and the Dispenser, should command the careful attention and approbation of the general public and elicit greater sympathy and material financial assistance for the indigent sick and distressed Poor of the City, Dartmouth and surroundings. While satisfied with the manner in which those duties are effected, the Board are not unmindful of the gratitude, due to Divine Providence, without whose blessing nothing prospers. In the past, relief in suffering, restoration to health and strength, have been greatly manifest; the catalogue of deaths is small—and probably many, who, without Dispensary treatment at South Brunswick Street and in their homes, must have succumbed to the great destroyer, are now living and at work.

THE DISPENSARY A BENEFIT.

There may be a modicum of truth in the opinion that systematic benevolence—the administration of charity by machinery as it

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were—suppresses those personal emotions of pity and sympathy or philanthropy which the sight and sounds of pain and poverty call forth. Nevertheless the Dispensary affords to a very large class of our poor people the means of obtaining, gratis, the benefits of skilful treatment and reliable prescriptions whenever and wherever needed. The closing of the Dispensary would deprive that afflicted class of its essential benefits and subject them to serious loss; and they would be driven to resort to private solicitations for relief, which many would regard as troublesome and to be avoided. Wherefore, Good Public, please to respond more liberally and unanimously to the Directors' annual appeal distributed in Church pews on "Dispensary Sunday." It comes round only once a year.

CONTRIBUTIONS DECLINING.

The Board views with great regret the yearly reduction of contributions from that once very satisfactory plan. Nearly 7,000 of those little reminders were issued stating positive facts and if the average response was 25 cents, it would be sufficient to enable the Board to sustain the Institution, and the private subscriptions now falling off, would meet emergencies. The plan adopted in Dispensaries in the United States, of asking each patient to pay 5 cents for prescriptions has been suggested to the Board, but does not commend itself to the favorable consideration of the Directors at present.

EXTENT OF THE WORK.

The general summary of the physicians, among other figures gives the total number of Patients as 3,404; the number of attendance 7,310, and the number of prescriptions 10,277. Prescriptions for other charitable requirements are still granted when desired by City Physicians. These amounted this year to 485.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

The number of applicants for positions on the active medical staff for 1899 was greater than usual and some changes have been made in its personnel. Dr. Ternan resigned, and Dr. Hattie was appointed to the position of Superintendent of the Hospital for Insane, making two vacancies to be filled. The Board selected two other gentlemen for the City, and Dr. Gossip for Dartmouth. The retiring physicians have the good will of the Directors, and full appreciation for their valuable services while on the Staff.

There is nothing further to mention than to tender thanks to all friends of the Dispensary, especially to those, who for so many years have given continued support and co-operation. In this connection counting the City Press.

W. C. SILVER, *President.*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*

MEDICAL BOARD'S REPORT.

Dr. Silver submitted the report of the Medical Board for the past year, as follows :

The Medical Board beg to lay before the directors their report of the work of the Halifax Dispensary during the past twelve months. The accompanying statistical statement shows that though the amount of work done in the different departments may vary from time to time, about the same total average of cases treated obtains each year. While a large amount of the work is due to sickness of a transient type, requiring but one or two attendances, cases of consumption, typhoid fever and prolonged surgical ailments, require treatment extending over months and sometimes years.

CITY FREE FROM EPIDEMIC.

But little epidemic disease has been present in the city during the year, though occasional cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria have occurred—with regard to the latter the success which has almost universally followed its treatment by antitoxin, warrants the staff in requesting that a supply of that rather expensive remedy be secured. The retirement of Dr. Ternan, in July ; Dr. Hattie, in October ; and of Drs. Smith, Walsh and Murray, in December, shows an unprecedented change in the personnel of the active staff during the past six months.

Mr. Lugin, the dispenser, has devoted much time and attention to his work, and has performed his duties in a very creditable manner.

The janitress, Mrs. McCarty, has satisfactorily attended to her duties, keeping the place clean and tidy.

Detailed Summary.

Medical Department—Consultations, Dr. Ross.....	1769
Surgical Department—Consultations, Dr. Gow.....	712
Women and Children Department—Consultations, Dr. Wallace.....	1439
Eye and Ear Department—Consultations, Dr. Dodge.....	583
Dartmouth Department—Consultations, Dr. M. A. B. Smith.....	328

OUTDOOR.

North District, No. 1—Visits, Dr. Walsh.....	480
North District, No. 2—Visits, Dr. W. F. Smith.....	539
Central District—Visits, Dr. Murray.....	622
South District—Visits, Dr. Silver.....	311
Dartmouth Districts—Visits, Dr. M. A. B. Smith.....	477
Dental Department—Operations, Dr. E. P. Ennis.....	678

PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED.

Charity prescriptions.....	485
Dartmouth prescriptions.....	673
City prescriptions.....	9119
Total prescriptions.....	10277

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Patients visited at their homes.....	748
Number of visits.....	2479
Patients attended at Dispensary.....	2656
Number of attendances.....	4831
Total number of patients.....	3404
Total number of attendances.....	7310
Total number of prescriptions dispensed.....	10277

C. D. MURRAY, M. D.,
Secty. Medical Board.

EYE AND EAR REPORT.

Dr. Dodge submitted the report of the Eye and Ear department as follows :

During the past year 177 patients were treated in the Eye and Ear Department. In no previous year has the work been as satisfactory with the eye cases as during the past year. One case alone was very much neglected, and the result should have been much better. Two or three other cases were incurable, since the disease from which they suffered has not yet been known to yield to any treatment. The great majority of the patients fully recovered, while some had sight more or less impaired from their disease. There was not a single case of blindness.

SIGHT AND HEARING.

It is surprising how much more regard is paid to the sense of sight than to that of hearing. As a rule I find those whose eyes are affected, ready to seek advice. The progress of the disease may be rapid in some cases, who have a poor physique, are not well fed, nor properly nourished. Within 48 hours the transparent part of the eye may become so much afflicted that permanent injury is done to the sight. These cases are, however, exceptional. But in diseases of the ear, the following is a typical case: A child, for example, may suffer severely for a day or so, and then suddenly get relief. Matter has formed in the drum cavity, causing so much pressure on the drum membrane that the latter bursts, giving exit to the pus, with relief to the pain.

Unfortunately an opening exists in the drum membrane, and then instead of treatment being employed to remove the cause of the discharge and to heal the opening, the case is left to nature, and may go on discharging for years. Such cases occur not only in Dispensary, but also in private practice. Happily they are not so numerous as formerly, because they are now more generally attended to in the acute stage, and for the additional reason that the importance of arresting the discharge is being generally understood.

INSIDIOUS TROUBLE.

But by far the most unsatisfactory ear patients are those whose hearing gradually become impaired without any pain or other symptom to attract the attention of the patient. In fact the hearing has become seriously impaired before any thing is done to arrest the disease. What is strange about it is that the patient has no idea apparently of the extent of the defect. It is quite a common saying Doctor, my hearing is not quite as good as it was, and I want to see if you can help me? Yet the hearing may be less than one-tenth of what it should be. This class of cases is always difficult to treat satisfactorily; and the proper time to deal with them is in the early stages. These facts are well known to those who have to treat such patients; and it is to be hoped that, when publicly known, they may have an educative effect and benefit those for whom they are intended.

STEPHEN DODGE, M. D.

DARTMOUTH BRANCH.

Dr. M. A. B. Smith submitted the report of the Dartmouth Branch, as follows:

Patients treated.....	215
Visits.....	477
Consultations.....	228
Deaths.....	6

It is now twenty years since this branch was established in Dartmouth. The sick poor, generally to the number of two hundred, have received attendance and medicine. Day after day the sick have been cared for, and yet many hardly realize that the branch is in existence. However, the poor are aware of it, and avail themselves of its advantages, and I believe that the service has the confidence of the poor patients and the approval of those who are interested in them.

There has been little to note in a medical way during the year, unless a mild epidemic typhoid fever that visits Dartmouth every

fall. There has been no case of diphtheria and the sanitary condition of the town appears to be good.

There is only one suggestion I would offer, which I made at different times, and which I will repeat. There is need of some arrangement with a local druggist to furnish an emergency remedy once in a while where there is not time to send to the Halifax Dispensary for medicine.

M. A. B. SMITH, M. D.

The several reports were received and adopted and after electing the Directors etc. the meeting adjourned.

NEW DIRECTORATE, 1899.

W. C. Silver, President ; Hon. H. H. Fuller, and His Worship the Mayor, (ex officio Vice-Presidents) ; Messrs. J. F. Kenny, Wm. Robertson, Charles Archibald, A. M. Bell, Wm. Dunbar, Robt. Taylor, Senator Power ; Honorary Treasurer, J. F. Kenny ; Secretary, W. H. Wiswell,

The Honorary Treasurer being absent from the City Wm. Robertson, Esq., submitted the Financial Statement for 1898.

HONORARY TREASURER'S ACCOUNT, 1898.

THE HALIFAX DISPENSARY in acct. with J. F. KENNY, *Treasurer*.

1898.

DR.

Jan. 1. To balance forward	\$1186 33
Hospital Sunday collections	809 23
Provincial Government grant	400 00
Halifax City grant	750 00
Dartmouth Town grant	60 00
Collections by Messrs. Robertson and Fuller	139 00
" " Robertson and Archibald	138 00
Interest on Sir Wm. Young's bequest	427 47
" " Investments	90 00
	<u>\$4000 03</u>

CR.

By paid for drugs	\$ 591 86
" Visiting Physicians	500 00
" Attending Physicians	375 00
" Eye and Ear Physician	50 00
" Dental Physician	50 00
" Dispenser's salary	900 00
" Secretary's salary	75 00
" Fire Insurance	22 35
" Gas account	13 77
" Fuel account	108 80
" Telephone and repairs	18 00
" Repairing and renovating building	164 95
" Water rates	22 45
" Medical requisites, etc	23 30
" Interest paid bank on one draft	25
" Stationery, advertising and postage	55 91
" Cleaning Morgue and House	22 00
	<u>\$2993 64</u>
Balance on hand for expenses, 1899	<u>\$1006 39</u>

J. F. KENNY,
Treasurer.

Examined and found correct,
CHARLES ARCHIBALD,
WM. ROBERTSON.

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CHURCH COLLECTIONS FOR DISPENSARY SUNDAY.

FOR 1897.*

Christ Church, Dartmouth.....	\$ 30 00
St. John's Presbyterian.....	7 10
Brunswick St. Methodist.....	26 00
St. Mary's Cathedral.....	140 30
Charles St. Methodist.....	27 21

FOR 1898.

St. Matthias.....	\$ 5 00
Brunswick St. Methodist.....	25 00
Chalmers Church.....	15 00
St. James Mission Church.....	7 00
Union Collection, Thanksgiving Day, Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist Churches, Dartmouth.....	37 05
St. Mary's Cathedral.....	146 00
St. George's Church.....	8 00
Christ Church.....	30 00
Grafton St. Methodist.....	15 00
St. Andrew's Church.....	47 90
Garrison Church.....	28 75
St. Stephen's.....	15 19
Coburg Road Church.....	4 67
First Baptist.....	16 15
Fort Massey.....	76 38
St. Matthew's.....	48 03
St. Paul's.....	53 00

FOR 1898 and 1899.*

Charles St. Methodist.....	\$ 22 75
St. Luke's Cathedral.....	40 50
Park St. Church.....	16 66
St. John's Presbyterian.....	4 80

Amounts received since Jan. 1st, not included in Treasurer's Statement.

From R. I. Hart.....	\$ 5 00
Collected by Messrs. Power and Bell.....	52 00
Donation from His Grace the Archbishop.....	10 00
His Honor The Lieutenant-Governor.....	10 00

*These returns were received after the Treasurer's accounts were closed for those years, to go into the subsequent account.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS TO THE HALIFAX
VISITING DISPENSARY, 1898-99.

Pickford & Black.....	\$20 00	Simson Bros. & Co.....	\$ 5 00
His Grace the Archbishop....	10 00	A. & W. Smith.....	5 00
His Honor the Lt.-Governor....	10 00	Kelly & Glassey.....	5 00
A. & W. Mackinlay.....	10 00	E. B. Sutcliffe.....	5 00
Jack & Bell.....	10 00	Longard Bros.....	5 00
Brown & Webb.....	10 00	H. Hesslein & Sons.....	5 00
Bauld, Gibson & Co.....	10 00	Michael Dwyer.....	5 00
W. C. Silver.....	5 00	Wm. Chisholm.....	4 00
W. Robertson.....	5 00	Jairus Hart.....	5 00
Hou. H. H. Fuller.....	5 00	Geo. E. Smith.....	5 00
Chas. Archibald.....	5 00	W. B. Arthur & Co.....	5 00
J. F. Kenny.....	5 00	Cragg Bros.....	3 00
Hon. Senator Power.....	5 00	Gordon & Keith.....	3 00
A. M. Bell.....	5 00	D. Keith.....	3 00
W. H. Wiswell.....	5 00	Austen Bros.....	3 00
Crowell Bros.....	5 00	Geo. P. Mitchell.....	3 00
Henderson & Potts.....	5 00	Mahon Bros.....	2 00
S. C. & Co.....	5 00	Barnstead & Sutherland.....	2 00
Wm. Roche.....	5 00	M. R. Morrow.....	2 00
G. M. Smith.....	5 00	Estate Geo. Rent.....	2 00
Jno. McInnes & Son.....	5 00	J. Forhan.....	2 00
T. E. Kenny.....	5 00	C. W. Outhit.....	2 00
W. J. Stairs.....	5 00	W. C. Sarre.....	2 00
J. R. Lithgow.....	5 00	E. Morrison & Co.....	2 00
J. C. McIntosh.....	5 00	G. A. Pyke.....	2 00
Drysdale & McInnes.....	5 00	A. J. Grant & Co.....	2 00
Levi Hart.....	5 00	Carroll & Co.....	2 00
A. Keith & Son.....	5 00	J. G. Bauld.....	2 00
A. N. Whitman.....	5 00	Robt. Bauld.....	2 00
Geo. E. Boak & Co.....	5 00	Shatford Bros.....	2 00
J. T. Thompson.....	5 00	A. E. Collas.....	2 00
R. I. Hart.....	5 00	T. A. S. DeWolf & Son.....	2 00
J. Y. Payzant.....	5 00	Black & Flynn.....	2 00
Black Bros. & Co.....	5 00	D. A. Story.....	2 00
R. B. Seeton.....	5 00	J. H. Brown.....	1 00
Smith Bros.....	5 00	J. R. Siteman.....	1 00
Wood Bros. & Co.....	5 00	A Friend.....	1 00
A. Hobrecker.....	5 00	P. J. Griffin.....	1 00

Donations not received prior to this Report will appear in the next.