

REPORT

OF THE

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

OF THE

Shelter for the Homeless.

FOR THE YEAR

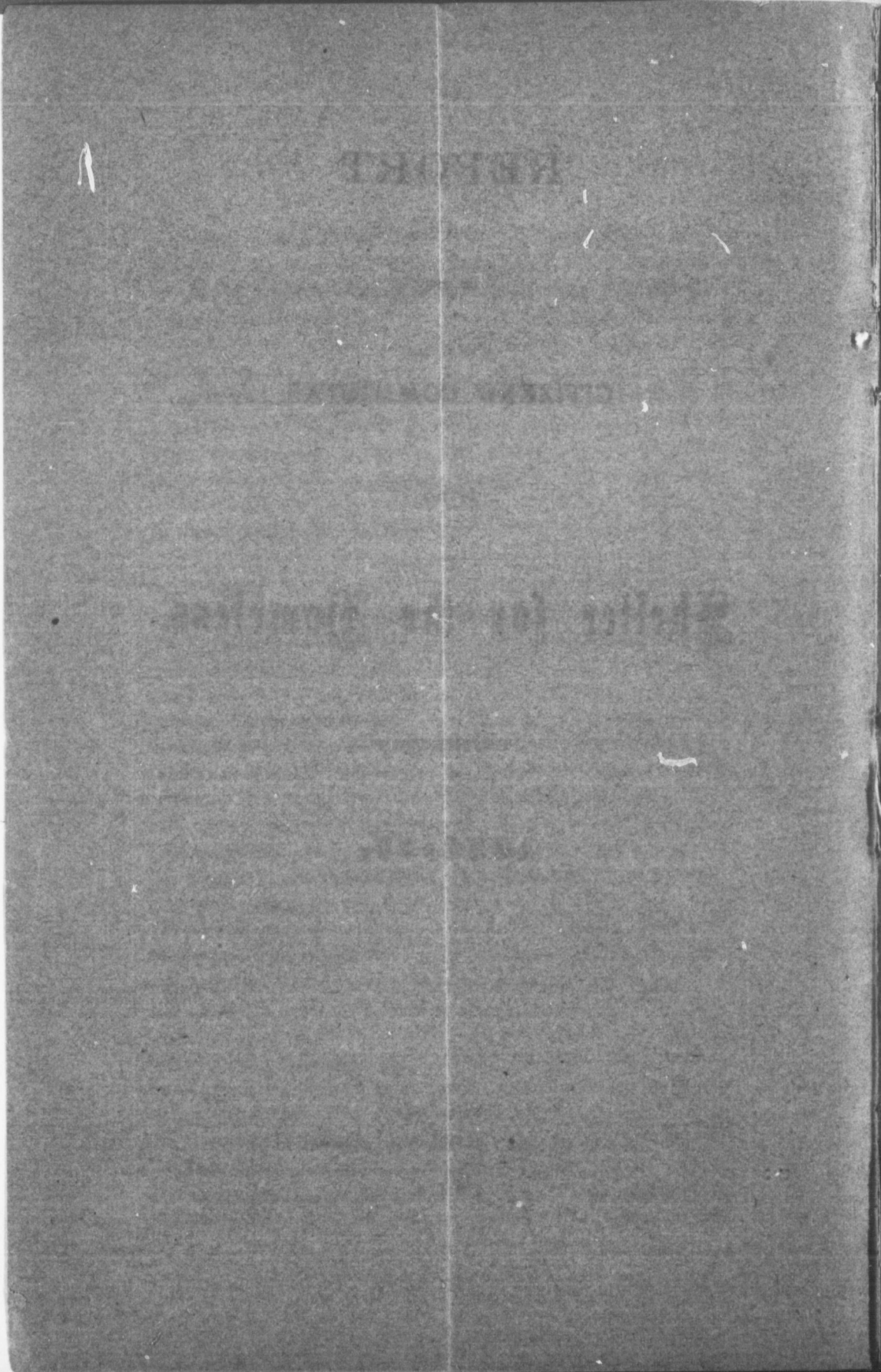
1876-77.

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TORONTO:

DUDLEY & BURNS, PRINTERS, 11 COLBORNE STREET.

1877.



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CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE

Shelter for the Homeless

FOR THE YEAR

1954-55

Chairman.

HON. G. W. ALLAN.

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Vice-Chairman.

A. T. McCORD, SR.

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Treasurer.

J. T. BOYD.

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Secretary.

J. E. DAY.

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Committee of Management.

GEO. GOULDING,	D. C. FORBES,
J. E. PELL,	T. J. WILKIE,
J. J. GARTSHORE,	J. J. WITHROW.
RICHARD TINNING.	

Chairman

HON. C. W. ALLEN

Vice-Chairman

T. T. WOODRUFF

Secretary

J. E. DAY

Members

J. E. DAY

Executive Committee

CHAS. H. WOODRUFF	W. H. WOODRUFF
J. E. DAY	J. E. DAY
J. E. DAY	J. E. DAY
J. E. DAY	J. E. DAY

REPORT OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE  
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"Shelter for the Homeless,"  
FOR THE YEAR  
1876-77.

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The period having arrived for the closure of the excellent charity under the supervision of the Committee, it becomes their duty to give an account of their stewardship, and to return the trust reposed in them. At a meeting of influential citizens, held the 19th Dec. last, his Worship the Mayor presiding, called by circular for the purpose of considering the advisability of re-establishing, during the winter of 1876-77, the "Shelter for the Homeless," the Committee were empowered to re-establish the "Shelter," and to carry out to the fullest extent, that the means placed at their disposal by the City Corporation and private individuals would admit of—the benevolent objects sought to be attained by its foundation. That the re-founding of this institution during the past winter was an absolute necessity may be gathered from a statement made by his Worship the Mayor at the meeting of the 19th Dec. last, to the effect "that he was daily besieged by numbers of men needing help, and that he did not know what to do with them;" and, from the fact that the old Jail, from the time of its opening until within a few days of its closing, has not only been filled to its utmost capacity, but many have been refused admittance thereto, in consequence of there not having been sufficient accommodation. The Committee are glad to be able to state that owing to the money grant from the City Corporation, the payment by the said body for labor expended on the stone broken by the inmates of the "Shelter;" and to the liberal subscriptions of

money by his Worship the Mayor, Messrs. Gooderham & Worts, Saml. Platt, Esq., M. P. ; Chief Justice Hagarty ; the County Council ; the Hon. G. W. Allan ; Robt. Jones, Egiington ; Mr. John McBean, and many other private citizens, whose names are set forth in the Treasurer's statement of account, they have been enabled to provide, with shelter, fuel, and food of the simplest character, for a period of fifteen weeks, the average daily number of one hundred and fifty men. In reporting on this part of their labors, the Committee cannot but refer in the warmest terms of praise to the interest manifested by Messrs. Gooderham and Worts in the welfare of the Institution, by supplying the Committee with stone to be broken by the inmates, especially so, when some doubt existed as to the future purchase of the stone by the Corporation ; and further, the Committee are firmly of the opinion that the success of the Institution, both financially and morally, is due in a large measure to the fact that the men were provided with work, thus preventing them from lapsing either into an indolent or mentally depressed condition, and enabling them to contribute to a considerable extent towards the expense of their maintenance. In view of the fact that in a city of the extent of Toronto, a large number of individuals, through circumstances of unforeseen misfortune and calamity, are being continually drawn into the maelstrom of poverty, necessitating their relief in some shape ; and of the fact that for many years to come, a large portion of the streets of the City will require to be macadamised, the Committee are of opinion that the City Corporation should provide two buildings, similar in character to the "Shelter," to be severally located in the East and West ends of the City, where such able-bodied men as required charity should be compelled, before receiving permanent relief, to discharge a certain amount of labour, in breaking or assisting to break stone, to be provided by the Corporation ; it being a proviso that the married men who had been residents of the City for some considerable period, say two years, should have the preference in being appointed to the work, and receiving therefor a larger remuneration for the piece-work done. This provision for the able-bodied, but unemployed, could be made available at very little additional expense to the City, by the Corporation supplementing the present money grant to the House of Industry, and requiring the Managers to grant no permanent relief to



any able-bodied person or persons (women and children excepted), until they had satisfactorily performed a certain amount of labor in connection with the breaking of stone or other work. If the Act of Parliament empowering the House of Industry to act as a Corporation required amending, no doubt the Legislature would readily grant the necessary authority to enable them to carry out the proposed method of relief. But this large measure of relief for the unemployed and destitute could not be effectually carried out unless the Ontario Legislature enacted a stringent law requiring each municipality either to provide work for, or maintain its own poor or unemployed people, who had been, or were, residents of such municipality for a period of two years, or such other time as may be deemed reasonable and proper.

To meet cases, such as emigrants from Foreign Countries, not coming under this provision of the proposed law, it should be the duty of the Emigration Department of either the Dominion or Provincial Governments, or both, to make provision for such destitute and unemployed persons, either indirectly by a grant to each municipality for such purpose; or directly by taking them under their own immediate care and supervision at the Emigration Sheds, or such other building as may be provided by Legislative enactment, or by order of the Governor in Council. As pauperism is largely on the increase in Canada, more especially in the Cities, Towns and Villages, gravitating as the destitute and unemployed do, as it were, by a natural affinity to the larger populations, thereby enlarging the difficulty of furnishing labour for so many, and increasing the danger to the lives and properties of the citizens of these municipalities, the Committee are of opinion that this is a question of the deepest import, not only to particular communities, but to the people at large, and is one that should occupy at an early date the serious consideration of the several Legislative Assemblies.

In respect, generally, to the inmates' behaviour and attention to work, the Committee are much pleased to be able to report that it has been exceedingly good. Some few cases of misconduct occurred, but these were readily disposed of.

The Committee regret to state that they were under the necessity of organizing in the "Shelter" a Sick Ward, or sort of infirmary for many who were not only unfit to do any work, but really, from their

reduced and infirm condition of body and mind, unable to help themselves. The Ward was constantly occupied, for the period it was opened, by an average daily number of twelve sick and infirm men. Two extreme cases of disease, the Committee were obliged to send to the General Hospital. They regret to state, however, that, in both instances, death supervened within a very few days of the admission of the individuals into the Hospital.

The gratuitous professional services of Dr. Frederick Wright, in connection with this work, were exceedingly valuable, and, on behalf of the citizens, the Committee tender him their grateful thanks for his many kind and professional visits, given often at very unseasonable hours.

The immediate supervision and management of the "Shelter" were delegated to Messrs. Goulding and Forbes, of the General Committee. The zeal, active interest, and untiring exertions manifested by these gentlemen in the discharge of their onerous and oftentimes self-imposed duties, are worthy of the highest commendation.

It having been found on examination that many of the inmates were very miserably clad, a public appeal was made to the benevolent for contributions of clothing. The appeal met with a liberal response. Quite a number of bundles of clothing of various kinds were sent, which enabled the Committee to decently clothe the most destitute, and dismiss them in a presentable condition. But we regret to state that the Committee are unable to give in full the names of the contributors, as many were anonymously sent.

The total income from all sources was \$2932.53.

And the total expenditure was \$2916.65, the details of which will be found in the accompanying statement of the Treasurer.

In concluding their Report the Committee desire to incorporate with it a short address presented to them by the inmates of the "Shelter," just previous to their departure. The address is as follows :

## SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Committee of "Shelter for the Homeless."*

TORONTO, 27th March, 1877.

GENTLEMEN.

The time having now arrived when this Institution, so charitable sustained by you and the inhabitants of this city, is about to close, we, the undersigned, beg to offer to you and to them our most grateful acknowledgements and sincere thanks for the shelter and food which have been so kindly afforded us during the past winter.

Driven in here by misfortune and want of employment, you have acted toward us in a truly Christian manner, and your good-will will be long remembered by us.

In thus conveying to you our sense of gratitude, we beg to express further our heartiest wishes for your prosperity and happiness, and remain.

Gentlemen,

Yours most respectfully

JOHN MEEK,

T. SMITH,

ABRAM J. BAXTER,

THOMAS CARTER,

JOSEPH GIBSON,

DANIEL TAYLOR,

And eighty four (84) others.

The Committee do this as a simple act of consideration and justice to the late inmates; first, because the address was a voluntary expression of their sentiments toward the Committee and the citizens generally; and secondly, because the inmates, having been characterized as "thieves and vagabonds," a statement, in the opinion of the Committee, unworthily made, it is evident, even supposing for one moment that there was any measure of truth in the statement, that notwithstanding the destitute and degraded condition to which they had been reduced, they were still subject to that Divine influence which is ever operating in guiding and lifting up man to the highest plane of perfection.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. T. McCORD, *Vice-Chairman.*

JAS. E. DAY, *Secretary.*

## SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

Allan, G. W., The Hon.....	\$ 10.00
Alexander & Stark .....	10.00
Anderson, Wm .....	2.00
A. S.....	1.00
Baldwin, A. H., Rev.....	5.00
Burton, Col.....	2.00
Campbell, A., Hon.....	25.00
City of Toronto .....	500.00
County of York .....	100.00
Currie, Neil.....	25.00
Day, J. E.....	5.00
Freeland, Mrs. P.....	5.00
Freeland W.....	1.10
"Friend of poor homeless." .....	4.00
"Friend of poor homeless." .....	1.00
Gamble, Clark.....	10.00
Gooderham & Worts.....	50.00
Gzowski, C. E., Jr.....	5.00
Hagarty, Chief Justice.....	30.00
Jarvis, Sheriff.....	10.00
Jones, Robert. (Eglinton.).....	40.00
Lady, per G. Goulding.....	1.00
Leslie, Jas. (Eglinton.).....	20.00
Miller, Mr., per G. Goulding.....	4.00
Macrae, Annie.....	5.00
Maclean, John.....	50.00
McCord, A. T.....	5.00
McCord, Miss.....	1.00
Morrison, Angus.....	25.00
N. L. S.....	5.00
Nasmith, J. D.....	10.00
Oldwright, Dr. ....	5.00
Platt, S., M. P.....	50.00
Pernet, Professor.....	2.00
Reid, Rev. Dr. Wm. ....	2.00
Scott, James .....	10.00
Schreiber, W. G.....	20.00
Shanly, Frank.....	10.00
Teevan, Captain, per T. J. Wilkie.....	5.00
Trust & Loan Co. ....	25.00
Thompson, T. M.....	20.00
Toronto, Lord Bishop of.....	10.00
Webb, Tom.....	5.00
Yours &c., Georgetown.....	5.00

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 \$1137.00

## DONATIONS IN KIND.

Cowan, D.....Pigs Heads.  
 Copp, Clark & Co.....Stationery.  
 Close & Co., P. G.....Groceries.  
 Cramp, Torrance & Co.....Groceries.  
 Fuel Association.....Cordwood.  
 Goulding, G.....Cloth for Mitts.  
 Griffin, Mr.....Spiced Beef.  
 Lockie, Mr. J. S.....45 bushels Coke.  
 Lee, Mr.....Medicines.  
 Macrae, A. S.....Newspapers.  
 Mills Bros.....Biscuits.  
 McCord, Sr., A. T.....Periodicals.  
 Moore & Co., C.....Groceries.  
 McCarter, Mr., Butcher.....Christmas Cheer.  
 Ramsay & Co.....Groceries.  
 Rose, Mr., Druggist.....Medicines.  
 Smith and Keighley.....Groceries.  
 St. Croix, W.....Christmas Cheer.  
 Young, James, Undertaker.....Funeral expenses of  
 Hospital patient.

Clothing of various kinds from a large number of Con-  
 tributors, known and unknown.

## COMPARATIVE AND STATISTICAL REPORT.

	1875-6.	1876-7.
No. of Lodgings.....	10,910.....	16,800
No. of Meals furnished.....	30,420.....	45,000
Daily average of inmates.....	86.....	155

GEO. GOULDING,  
 D. C. FORBES.

