THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HALIFAX ASSOCIATION

POR

Improbing the Condition of the Poor,

FOR THE YEAR 1873.

WITH A

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS, &c.

ORGANIZED BECEMBER 27, 1866.

HALIFAX, N. S.: NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY, 1873. - HILT

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T. COSSMAN J. W. ALLISO S. WADDELI K. T. MATH

HALIFAX ASSOCIATION

FOR

Emproving the Condition of the Poor.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

Dresident. JOHN DOULL, Esq.

Vice-President. JOHN STAIRS.

Members of the Central Board.

TIX

S. BROOKFIELD,
T. COSSMAN,
R. J. SWEET,
D. H. STARR.

Treasurer. W. S. STIRLING.

Secretary. CHARLES FLETCHER.

Auditing Committees.

DISTRICT ONE.

S. RROOKFIELD, Chairman. C. H. CROWE, W. H. NEAL.

DISTRICT TWO.

T. COSSMAN, Chairman.
J. W. ALLISON,
S. WADDELL,
K. T. MATHESON.

DISTRICT THREE.

R. J. SWEET, Chairman. EDW. JOST, J. D. LONGARD,

DISTRICT FOUR.

D. H. STARR, Chairman. C. C. VAUX, JOS. BELL.

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E. T. MATHESON.

LOS. BELL.

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REPORT.

THE Central Board of the Halifax Association for improving the condition of the Poor, in submitting this their seventh annual report, desire to express their unabated confidence in the soundness of the principles on which the Association is constituted, though they have not yet been able to carry them

out as completely and rigorously as they would like.

The abstract of rules printed with the Report shows what the Constitution is. The intention is to relieve the poor, not because they are connected with this or that denomination, but on the ground of humanity; and to do this systematically, that there shall not be any real necessity for street begging in this city. The work of the different churches is not interfered with; for (1) the Visitors do not help any that are on the roll of a church as benficiaries; and (2) as only necessary articles are given by the Visitors, and to none who are likely to continue long unable to earn their own livelihood, abundant room is left for each church to care especially for its own members. This Association endeavors to secure (1) that no one shall suffer in Halifax from absolute want; (2) the exposing of impostors who beg from door to door, because they can make twice as much in that way as by honest labor. To secure these ends, it divides the city into four districts, and sub-divides those into forty-five sections; appoints a Chairman and advisory Committee to each district, and a Visitor to each section. Any one can become a member of the Association by paying four dollars. Every member receives a list of the forty-five visitors, and a sufficient number of tickets. When a beggar comes to the door all that the member has to do is to ask his or her address, then look at the list of sections to see who is the visitor of that street and number, and fill in a ticket to be taken by the beggar to the visitor. The Association guarantees that the case will be promptly inquired into, and relief afforded if it is found to be required. If a member finds that a ticket sent by him has been disregarded, he should at once bring the fact to the notice of the President, or the Chairman of the Committee of the particular district. In the seven years history of the Association very few such complaints have been made.

Let it be distinctly understood then by those who talk about the evils of street or house-to-house begging or the frauds and impostures of unprincipled mendicants, that the fault is

entirely their own if they refuse to co-operate with the only feasible and systematic effort that is made to suppress those grave evils. Any failure of the Association must be owing either to the citizens generally not becoming members, and preferring to give at their own doors and without examination; or to the visitors not doing their duty. The officebearers of the Association will do their best to see that the second cause shall not exist; they have no power over the first. They can only make an appeal to the good sense and right feeling of their fellow citizens, and point to the facts that the number of contributors last year was only about eighty, and that the sum of four dollars a year will enable any householder to deal summarily with the great social evils of pauperism and mendicancy.

The Board is glad to know that similar associations are now being formed in the cities of Britain and America. The reports of their working in Edinburgh and New York are

especially gratifying.

Though the number of contributors is small, the Board is most grateful to acknowledge that they are all volunteers, and that their subscriptions have been so large that all demands on the Treasurer have been met. The amount received from donations, subscriptions, and legacies last year was \$1570. No canvas for subscribers was instituted. This fact alone shows that the need for some such Association was felt, for few charitable undertakings have been carried on for years without dunning. The Board would, however, recommend a canvas to be instituted this winter, in order to secure a larger amount of money, not only to carry on the regular monthly operations, but always to have a rest to the credit of the Association, and to avoid paying interest to the bank on advances. The sooner subscriptions are paid in the better, because a large sum is always needed at the New Year to purchase a supply of coal and the stones that are broken in quired. If a member finds that normon and no bade att

A primary object of the Association is, not merely the relief, but the elevation of the physical and moral condition of the poor. It has, therefore, always been the aim of the Board to endeavor to give employment rather than charity, not only because it is better in itself, but because in no other way can there be a test that the poverty is not the result of incurable idleness. The chief employment hitherto pro-

vided is test is s were pur up into three cer three and and as t the wint employed work. T by John intend it

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vided is stone-breaking, and the Board considers that this test is severe enough. Last winter 4231 loads of stone were purchased at 18 cents a load. These were broken up into 47,819 bushels, the men being paid at the rate of three cents a bushel. It is proposed to pay them this year three and a-half cents, as fuel and other necessaries are dearer, and as this department is actually self-sustaining. During the winter months an average of fifty men have been thus employed, each man earning about forty cents for a day's work. This important department has been ably managed by John Stairs, Esq., and he has kindly consented to superintend it for another year.

Some employment was given to females last year, in the shape of plain sewing, under the superintendence of Miss Cogswell and a Committee of ladies who gave much time and care to it. The results—financially—were not very satisfactory, but those employed improved in sewing, and it is a first principle of the Association to give relief, in the shape of employment, even though it does not pay directly. The Board will gladly receive suggestions on this subject, and cooperate with any well devised scheme that may be inaugurated.

The Association is in existence all the year round, but it dispenses relief chiefly in January, February, and March. Summing up the returns, we present the following Table of Articles Supplied:—

Bushels of Coal.	Feet of Wood.	Loaves of Bread.	Lbs. of Cornmeal.	Lbs. of Oatmeal.	Galls. of
January 950½ February1072 March1031½	4 2	652 895 1016	343 399 402	913 1090 1105	893 1273 1111
3054	6	2563	1144	3108	3283

Meetings of the Central Board were held regularly during the Winter months, and the services of the Secretary, Mr. Chas. Fletcher, were found extremely valuable, The Board desires to acknowledge with thanks the kindness of Mr. Henry Hesslein, of the Halifax Hotel, who has given a room for Annual and Monthly Meetings, and put sheds at their disposal for storage of coal, and shown his interest in other ways.

(Signed)

JOHN DOULL, President.

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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 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 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 labour, 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 liquors 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 dependent, except in extreme cases, for two or three days, or until they can be referred to the Commissioners of the Poor, or to 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 Institution.

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 labours, and also an account of their disbursements, to their respective committees, at the stated monthly meeting. No visitor neglecting these duties will be entitled to draw on the funds of the Association.

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 gratuitious 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 produced 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 relived; 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 neccessarily left to suffer. Even those who obstinately persist in their vicious courses, and cannot be relieved without injury to them and the community, still have a resource in the legal

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nce of the ne persons who obstid without 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 is practicable, 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 individualls 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 their 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.

DISTRICT TWO WANDS THREE AND FOUR.

LIST OF VISITORS-1874.

DISTRICT ONE. WARDS ONE AND TWO.

S. M. BROOKFIELD, Chairman.

Auditing Committee-W. H. NEAL, A. H. CROWE.

Streets.	Visitor's Name.	Visitor's Residence.
Albermarle street, 1 to 39	C. E. Putner.	Dispensary.
Albert street and Gas Lane	John Ritchie.	80 Pleasant Street.
Barrington street, 1 to 49, 2 to 40	C. H. Longard.	80 Pleasant Street.
Salter and Wallace streets	A. H. Crowe.	South Park Street.
Brenton street. Briar Lane, Dresden Row, Rottenburg street.	S. M. Brookfield.	66 Spring Garden Road.
Church, Dundonald, South, Harvey, Kent, and Morris sts. and Victoria Road	Wm. Lawson.	Victoria Road.
(Freen, Smith, Smith, Tobin and Lower)	Chas. Stayner.	Sayner's Wharf.
Water Streets, east side	John McInnis.	McIntosh & McInnes' wf.
Tower Road, Inglis street, and all the dis-	C. Franklyn.	Emscote, N. W. Arm.
trict south of Inglis street	W. H. Neal.	Spring Garden Road.

DISTRICT TWO. WARDS THREE AND FOUR.

T. A. Cossmann, Chairman.

Auditing Committee-K. J. MATHESON, S. WADDELL, J. W. ALLISON.

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Albermarle street, 126 to end. Albermarle street, 8 to 124. Albermarle street, 49 to 163. A. V. Albermarle street, 165 to end. Argyle street, 5ackville to end. Jam Brunswick street, 1 to 61. Brunswick street, 61 to Jacob. Barrington street, 8ackville to Jacob. Barrington street, 8ackville to Jacob. Barrington street, 8ackville to Jacob. Brus wick street, 61 to Jacob. Barrington street, 8ackville to Jacob. Grafton street, 9ackville to Jacob. Grafton street, 9ackville to Jacob. Grafton street, 122 to 154. Grafton street, 126 to end. Grafton street, 126 to end. Hollis street, 8ackville to end. Jacob street, sackville to end. T. Jacob street, sackville to end. Frankov street, 126 to 126. Lower Water street, 165 to 216. A. Lower Water street.	y. Allison less Forrest, less Curren, l. Matheson, Robertson, less Forrest, less Curren, less Forrest, Maddell, Robertson, Maedonald, Robertson, less Forrest, Stephen, Jr.,	Doull & Miller's. 116 Argyle street, 29 Starr street. Doull & Miller's. 171 Hollis street. 7 Cunard Court, Peter Grant & Co's. Mines Office. 171 Hollis street. J. Northup & Sons, J. Northup & Sons, J. Northup & Sons, J. Northup & Sons, J. S. Maclean & Co. J. S. Maclean & Co. J. S. Maclean & Co. 145 Barrington street, 173 Brunswick street. 147 South Park street. Mines Office. Mines Office. Mines Office. Barrington, corner Prince Barrington, corner Prince Barrington, corner Prince

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DISTRICT THREE. WARD FIVE.

R. J. SWEET, Chairman.

Auditing Committee-EDWARD JOST, JOHN D. LONGARD.

Streets.	Visiter's Name,	Visitor's Residence
Brunswick street, from Jacob to Gerrish	R. J. Wilson, A. J. Smith, D. Ellis, James Mitchell, W. Sinclair Graham, Duncan MacGregor, Benjamin Hills, J. D. Longard,	77 Cunard street. 109 Maynard street. 17 Bauer street, 21 North Park street. 94 Cornwallis street. 110 Gottingen street. 73 Maitland street. 329 Brunswick street.
Starr street	Edward Jost,	263 Brunswick street.
angeon street, north from Jacob)	J. D. Longard, W. Sinclair Graham.	329 Brunswick street. 94 Cornwallis street.

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DISTRICT FOUR. WARD FIVE. D. HENRY STARR, Chairman.

Auditing Committee-Joseph Bell, C. C. VAUX.

Streets.	Visitor's Name.	Visitor's Residence.
Upp. Water st. Gerrish to Knight's Road Lookman st., Gerrish to North. Brunswick st., Gerrish to North. Gottingen st., Gerrish to North. Creighton st., Gerrish to North. Maynard st., Gerrish to North. Gerrish st., north side. Arts Lane. North st., Water to Gottingen. Almon, Bilby, Mary and McCara streets	James C. Anderton, Thomas Conran, J. W. Hennigar. John W. Marven, John S. Smith, J. W. Hennigar, Thomas Conran,	36 North street. 220 Brunswick street, 381 Brunswick street, 64 Gerrish street. 120 Brunswick street. 191 Lockman street. 64 Gerrish street. 381 Brunswick street. 220 Brunswick street. 36 Russell street.

DISTRICT FOUR. SUBURBAN SECTIONS, WARD SIX.

Streets.	Visitor's Name.	Visitor's Residence.
	John A. Bell,	Water Works Office City.
Knight's Road along the line of Railway, including Africville to Three Mile House. West of Kempt Road, north of North street, Rast of Kline's Road, extending north-	All and the standard of the st	Campbell Road.
ward to the Dutch Village Leahy Villa to head of N.W. Arm, thence to where Kline's Road joins Dulch Village	John L. Whytal,	204 Hollis street. 204 Hollis street.