

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Children's Aid Society

OF THE

CITY OF OTTAWA

For the Year 1898-99.

OTTAWA :
JAMES HOPE & SONS, PRINTERS.
1899.



LIST OF OFFICERS, 1899=1900.

President :

Mr. Wm. L. Scott.

Vice-Presidents :

Mrs. Gwynne,	Rev. Father Whelan,
Mrs. F. McDougal,	Lady Ritchie,
Rev. Canon Pollard,	Mr. John Gorman.

Council,—Elected Members :

Ven. Archdeacon Bogert,	Mrs. E. A. Mara,
Mrs. A. H. Frechette,	Miss Seymour,
Col. Irwin,	Miss Proctor,
Miss Sinclair, M.D.,	Mr. E. P. Stanton,
Mr. H. B. Small,	Miss Urquhart,
Mr. F. R. E. Campeau,	Mr. John Hardie,
Mrs. Lamothe,	Mrs. W. A. Leggo,
Mrs. J. P. Fetherston,	Mrs. Arthur Bond,
Mrs. J. Edgar,	Mrs. Beauset,
Mr. Sheriff Sweetland,	Mrs. Robertson.

Mr George O'Keefe.

Representatives of Institutions :

Protestant Orphan's Home.	St. Patrick's Asylum.
Mrs. Thorburn,	Mr. Wm. Kearns,
Mrs. H. K. Egan.	Mr. James O'Connor.

*Hon.-Treasurer,—*Mr. J. R. Armstrong.

*Secretary,—*Mr. John Keane.

Hon.-Solicitors— { Mr. Chas. Murphy.
Mr. A. J. Forward.
Mr. J. U. Vincent.

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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

....AT THE....

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

....OF THE....

Children's Aid Society of Ottawa.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, was held pursuant to notice, in the City Hall, on Thursday, October 12th, 1899.

Among those present were the following :

Mr. W. L. Scott, President, in the chair, Rev. M. J. Whelan, Ven. Archdeacon Bogert, Mrs. J. Thorburn, Mrs. W. A. Leggo, Mrs. G. M. Holbrook, Mrs. A. Robertson, Mrs. Arthur Bond, Miss Horne, Miss McDonald, Miss Proctor, Miss Robertson, Miss Urquhart and Messrs. John Gorman, J. R. Armstrong, W. Kearns, W. F. Boardman, A. J. Forward, J. Keane (Sec'y), and S. H. Bartlett.

The President, in taking the chair, referred briefly to the work of the Society and called on the Secretary to read the minutes of the last annual meeting. These on motion of Mr. J. R. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Kearns, were adopted.

The annual reports of the Secretary and Honorary-Treasurer were then presented to the meeting.

Moved by Mr. John Gorman seconded by Mr. W. F. Boardman, that the reports just read be received and adopted—Carried.

The President took occasion, whilst the general work of the Society was being considered, to strongly advocate either a regular canvass for increased financial support from friends of the work, or some scheme by which one of our city newspapers might open subscriptions on its behalf.

An interesting feature of the meeting was the reading by the president of the reports of the Provincial Visitor, Mrs. L. J. Harvie concerning the society's children and the various foster-homes where they are placed.

The legal status of adopted children brought on an interesting discussion in which Mrs. Thorburn, Mr. Boardman, Mr. Gorman, Mr. Kearns, Miss Proctor and Mr. Armstrong participated.

On motion of Mr. Boardman, seconded by Mrs. Thorburn, it was resolved that the reports of the Secretary, Honorary-Treasurer, and Provincial Visitor, with the proceedings of this meeting, be printed and circulated amongst members, subscribers and friends.

Miss Proctor strongly advocated the claims of the constable, Mr. Bartlett, to increased remuneration in view of the excellent and useful work he did in connection with the society.

The election of officers was then proceeded with.

On motion of Rev. Father Whelan, seconded by Mr. J. R. Armstrong, Mr. W. L. Scott was re-elected President. The election of the other officers and of the members of the Committee followed. (For list see 3rd page).

Rev. Father Whelan moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Honorary Solicitors for their valuable professional services ; to Mr. Topley for photographs of children ; to the city papers for kindly notices, and to the authorities of the various homes for their advice and assistance in placing out children.

The meeting then adjourned.

J. KEANE,
Secretary.

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.. REPORT ..

Children's Aid Society of Ottawa.

1898-99.

In presenting our Sixth Annual Report we have to record a year of increased activity in the work of our society. If we have not placed quite so many children in foster-homes as in 1897-98, a much greater number have been dealt with in their own homes than in any previous year in the history of the society. The total number placed out was twenty-six, two less than in 1897-98. But it must be noted that some of these had to be placed twice and in three instances even three times before a satisfactory settlement could be reached, so that in all thirty-five foster-homes were found. Of the twenty-six children placed out, thirteen were boys and thirteen girls.

Complaints are frequently lodged with us and information is continually reaching us in other ways, with regard to neglected and vagrant children, and to children, who, owing to carelessness, drunkenness, illtreatment, or other parental deficiencies, are said to require our intervention and such cases always receive prompt attention. Whilst, unfortunately, only too many of these are found, on enquiry, to be cases calling for intervention of some kind, yet it must in fairness be stated, that in quite a number of instances the reports are found, on investigation, to be either greatly exaggerated or wholly without foundation. Some four or five cases of cruelty were clearly established. In these the children were taken by the society and are now in kind foster-homes. In about twenty cases the parents or guardians came to us voluntarily for advice and guidance in dealing with their children and in four cases the children themselves claimed the protection of the society.

In several cases the Police Magistrate requested that enquiries should be made for his information, concerning boys brought before him. One of these was allowed to go with a warning, one was released on suspended sentence, two were committed for short terms of imprisonment, one was sent to the Industrial School, one to the Reformatory and one, who was found to be mentally defective, was sent to an Asylum.

In addition to the twenty-six children placed out, eighty-six families were visited at their homes, some of them many times, and in this way 183 children were affected. We have thus dealt with a total of 209 children.

Twenty-one children were taken in charge by the society during the year. Three were allowed to go back to their parents, one ran away from an orphanage and two died, one in an orphanage, the other in its own home, where it was under surveillance. Three are at present ill, two of these are in the hospital, the other receiving medical treatment at its own home.

There are at present in the orphanages nine committed children awaiting foster-homes, viz: St. Patrick's Asylum, 3; Good Shepherds, 2; Protestant Orphan's Home, 4. There is one awaiting commitment.

As the object of the society is not to disturb the family tie as long as such a course can possibly be avoided, every effort is made to awaken in the parent a sense of his responsibility and to urge him to display greater anxiety for the welfare of his children. Recourse is first had to friendly advice, counsel, caution and warning; when these fail official notices threatening action are resorted to. These efforts meet with very varying results. In some cases they are quite successful, in others they result in only temporary improvement. When all else fails, and as a last resort, the children are taken by the society.

During the year we have had three visits from Mr. Kelso, the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children for Ontario; on each of these occasions he gave us valuable counsel and advice regarding our work.

We have also received the reports of the official visits to a number of our foster-homes during the month of June by Mrs. Harvie the Provincial Visitor. These with one exception are very gratifying indeed. The exception was a case where the child and foster-parents did not seem to suit each other. The child in question has since been removed to another home. A resume of Mrs. Harvie's reports is appended hereto. In addition to those visited by Mrs. Harvie, your secretary visited some fourteen homes and in almost every instance found matters exceedingly satisfactory and the children happy.

The society has now over sixty children placed out in good homes. This very material result of its labours should be a matter of gratification to every member.

Owing to the expansion of the work it was found impossible to continue to carry it on satisfactorily with only one executive officer and in consequence, at a meeting of the committee held in March last, Mr. S. H. Bartlett was appointed constable. We are pleased to be able to testify that Mr. Bartlett has proved himself a zealous, faithful and efficient officer and the increased number of children dealt with this year may in a great measure be attributed to his exertions. The City Council increased our grant in order to enable us to pay him a small salary but the remuneration thus afforded is wholly inadequate to the work he performs. He is now a constable for the County of Carleton and has been appointed by the Police Commissioners of the City of Ottawa, a constable to carry out the duties assigned him by this Society under the Children's Aid Act. The Toronto Society has at its disposal a regular staff of police officers paid by the police commissioners. A similar arrangement should be in force here.

In the month of June, your secretary had the privilege of attending the Second Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction, in Toronto. The meetings and addresses were inspiring and useful and the discussions brought out many suggestions for improved methods of work. A copy of the Transactions of the Conference are herewith laid on the table. A limited number of

copies were by the kindness of Mr. Kelso, placed at your secretary's disposal and these have already been distributed.

There is a very practical matter and one of great importance to a number of our children which it is suggested that the council to be elected to-day, should bring to the attention of the proper authorities with a view to securing appropriate legislation. In many cases our children are with people who desire to adopt them and treat them in all respects as their own, even to the extent of making them their heirs. In such cases if a will is made this intention may of course be carried out, but otherwise the expectations of the children may, in the event of the death of their foster parents, be disappointed. What is required is some provision enabling a foster parent, in a proper case and with the consent of the society, by going through some legal form, to give to the child the legal status of an heir. That this is a real need and that the supposed case is by no means an imaginary one, is proved by the fact that no less than twenty-four out of our sixty children are in the position indicated. These children, treated as they are in all respects as the children of their foster parents, are naturally not paid wages, and it would be indeed a hard case if after, say, a boy has worked on the farm without remuneration until he is twenty-five or thirty, contributing by his labours to increase its value, he should, owing to the intestacy of his foster parent, be left with no claim whatever on the inheritance. The suggested legislation would work injustice to no one as the adoption of its provisions would of course be optional, and even when adopted there would still be nothing to prevent the foster parent's willing his property away from his foster child. Those who are aware of the repugnance to the making of a will until death seems imminent, which frequently exists among the class of people in question, will appreciate all the more the necessity for the suggested legislation.

While the subscriptions towards the support of the work have increased, our funds are still very inadequate and a further material increase of our revenue is urgently needed. Your president addressed a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Corporation on behalf of the society, and succeeded in obtaining an

increase in the grant from the City Council. Practically the whole however, of the increased amount was devoted to the payment of the constable's salary.

The lady members of the committee, towards the end of the winter, formed themselves into a sub-committee with the object of providing outfits for the children sent out for adoption. A depôt was established and a public request for suitable clothing was well responded to. As a result a number of our children were provided with comfortable outfits before proceeding to their foster-homes. It is hoped that this most necessary work will be still further extended during the coming year. The address of the depôt is No. 2 Victoria Avenue, corner of Albert Street.

Our thanks are due to the various ladies and gentlemen who assisted us financially during the year. We are also under great obligations to the honorary solicitors for their valuable professional services ; to the authorities of the various orphanages for allowing us the use of their institutions as shelters ; to the sisters and matrons for their interest in the work and their assistance in obtaining foster homes ; to Mr. Topley for photographs of our children ; to the police authorities for information and advice, and last, though by no means least, to the press for notices of our meetings and kindly references to our work.

W. L. SCOTT,

President.

JOHN KEANE,

Secretary.

OTTAWA, October 12th, 1899.



REPORT

On thirty-two children placed out by the Ottawa Society and visited by Mrs. Harvie, Provincial Visitor, in June, 1899.

NOTE—For obvious reasons the names of the foster-parents and of the children are omitted. The report is in other respects given in its entirety, in order that a fair estimate may be formed of the measure of success with which the work is meeting.

1.—This is a good home and this child appears to be doing exceedingly well. He will go to school this autumn and will be given every advantage. Foster-parents greatly attached to him.

NOTE—This boy is seven years old and has been in this home two years.

2.—This boy left his foster-home on the 5th of June at the request of his father. Foster-parent states that the father sent a letter saying that the boy must go home. He did not want to go and left some of his clothing behind. The foster-parents were sorry to lose the lad as he was just getting useful. He attended school and the teacher boarded at the house. The people are well off, the home a very comfortable one, and it seems a pity the boy did not remain.

NOTE—This boy is thirteen years old and was in the home since 20th December, 1898. His removal by his father was unauthorized and did not come to the knowledge of the society until Mrs. Harvie's report was received. The boy was immediately retaken and is now in another suitable home. The case illustrates the necessity for concealing from the parents all knowledge of the child's whereabouts.

3.—This is a good affectionate boy and the home a comfortable and happy one. No complaints made. The foster-parents are exceedingly anxious to have the exact birthday.

NOTE—The desired information was sent. The boy is ten years old and has been in this home since February, 1899.

4.—Foster-mother and girl were away at time of visit. Went to foster-father's shop and had a talk with him. He said

that girl was doing nicely. Do not know anything of child's training.

NOTE—This girl is three and a half years old and had been in the home since December, 1898. Owing to a change in the domestic circumstances of the family the child has since been removed and placed in another home.

5.—Did not call at this home. Called at general store and post-office and proprietor gave very satisfactory account of the home. All members of the family greatly attached to little girl.

NOTE—This girl is eleven years old and has been in this home since June, 1897. The secretary since visited the family and the foster parents declared to him their intention that she should share with their own children in their property after their death.

6.—This home a very good one and the people kind and intelligent. No complaint. Girl is an attractive child and the foster-parents are very fond of her.

NOTE—The girl is eleven years old and has been in this home since October, 1896.

7.—This child is well and happy and is growing a large girl.

NOTE—The girl is ten years old and has been in this home since Jan., 1898.

8.—This is a beautiful home and these children (three sisters) are exceptionally attractive. The eldest is very clever at drawing. The two eldest attend school. The eldest has been confirmed. These children are being well trained by foster-mother.

NOTE—Children are twelve, ten and six years old respectively and have been in this home since April, 1897.

9.—This is a stiring boy but there were no complaints of bad conduct. Attends school and is clever with his studies and liked by all. Is well clothed. Attends church and sunday school. The foster-parents are much attached to him and he has an excellent home.

NOTE—Boy is thirteen years old and has been in this home since February, 1898. The report is particularly satisfactory in view of the fact that, owing to bad antecedents and lack of early training his seemed at one time rather a hopeless case. He ran away from a former home in which he had been placed, but seems at last to be with people who understand him.

10 —This is a good home and the people well-to-do. Foster-mother appears to be lacking in sympathy and affection for the child. The girl is very bright but is heedless and not at all attractive. She seems lonely and discontented. Has no com-

panions. Unless she becomes more contented would advise her removal.

NOTE—The girl is twelve years old and has been in the home since March, 1899. Acting on the suggestion in the report, she has since been removed to a more congenial home.

11.—This child will be well trained. Foster-parents kind, simple, working people. The girl is active and clever.

NOTE—The girl is six years old and was placed in this home in March, 1899.

12.—This is a steady, thoughtful little boy, but not fond of his books. Not very clever though quiet and amiable. The home is a very good one, the foster-mother being very careful about the boy. Advise more time for play be allowed the boy.

NOTE—The boy is nine years old and has been in this home since March, 1899.

13.—Did not see this boy as he was away from home at time of visit. Heard good accounts of him. Is getting \$20.00 per year. Does not wish to go to school. Is on the whole doing fairly well.

14.—Did not visit this house as foster-father does not speak English. Saw the mayor of the place and learned from him that the children (two sisters) had every advantage. They attend school, church and sunday school. The elder girl has been confirmed.

NOTE—The children are eleven and ten years old respectively and have been in this home since April, 1898.

15.—This boy is not very bright, but obedient and truthful. He says he is only punished when he deserves it. There are two little grandsons in the family now, aged seven and three years, their mother having died a few months ago. Believe the home to be a good one.

NOTE—The boy is ten years old and has been in this home since April, 1898. We make a rule not to place children in foster-homes where there are children already, unless in special cases.

16.—This is an exceptionally fine girl and will likely have every advantage. Foster-father inclined to be over indulgent; foster-mother, however, a woman of sense. Is doing well at school.

NOTE—The child is thirteen years old and has been in this home since Oct. 1898. The foster-parent has declared his intention of leaving to her everything he has.

17.—Is growing a tall girl. Foster-mother has never heard any stories or complaints of her conduct. From all that could be observed during visit girl is becoming steadier and more womanly,

NOTE—Girl is fifteen years old and has been in this home since June, 1896. There has been some difficulty since the date of the report, but the secretary has managed to arrange matters satisfactorily.

18.—Girl was placed with her own parents. Family was away when visit was made. Little girl living next door said girl was attending school. Locality was poor but the house and immediate surroundings were quiet and respectable.

NOTE—The child is seven years old and was returned to her parents in July, 1898, after having been in the custody of the society fifteen months. This is a particularly gratifying case. Both parents were very bad, necessitating the removal of the child. In consequence they at once reformed and have since been living in an exemplary manner.

19.—Foster-parents were away but girl was at home. She is a pleasant, attractive girl. Has recently joined the Church. A good home in every way.

NOTE—The girl was placed in the home July, 1898.

20.—This home is a good one. Girl much beloved. Receives religious instruction.

NOTE—The girl is 12 years old and has been in this home since May, 1898.

21.—This home is a good one but the boy is mischevious and very trying.

NOTE—The boy is seven years old and has been in the home since December, 1896.

22.—Did not visit this home. but while visiting neighboring home learned from Miss——, who had been there a day or two before, that boy was well and happy and the foster-parents much attached to him. He attended school regularly.

NOTE—The boy is nine years old and has been in this home since March, 1899.

23.—This is an excellent home and the child has certainly fallen into very good hands. He is a refined, gentle little fellow, clever at school. He attends church regularly.

NOTE—The boy is seven years old and has been in this home since April, 1899.

24.—This is a good home and the people are very fond of the boy. The foster-father is unmarried and his sister, a kind

motherly woman, keeps house for him. The boy is quite happy and likes his home. No complaints whatever.

NOTE—The boy is nine years old and has been in this home since March, 1899. He was at first placed with three other parties, who did not however like him.

25.—Good home. Like the boy very well. No complaint. Boy likes his home only feels lonesome. Surroundings all that could be desired.

NOTE—Boy is twelve years old and has been in this home since April, 1899. Was in two homes previously.

26.—When this home was visited the family were all away and the boy was at school three miles away. Heard from the neighbours that everything was going on satisfactorily, the boy being kindly treated and the family thought well of in the neighbourhood.

NOTE—The boy is eleven years old and has been in this home since March, 1898.

27.—This is a happy, healthy, good boy, greatly beloved by his foster-parents. He is kindly treated and the home is a comfortable one. Did not see foster-father as he was away at the time of visit.

NOTE—The boy is fifteen months old and has been in this home since February, 1899.

28.—This is a humble home but the people seem to be respectable and sensible. They have had a good deal of sickness but are gradually getting out of debt caused by this trouble. The foster-parents are firm in dealing with the boy but do not think they are unkind. He is not a very obedient boy and has bad habits. He reads very well and altogether is doing fairly.

NOTE—The boy is seven years old and has been in this home since March, 1899.

29.—Foster-parents were away at time of visit but saw the boy who said he was well treated and was quite contented in his home. Will attend school in the fall. Can read and write nicely. Is well clothed. He has a very amiable disposition.

NOTE—The boy is seven years old and has been in this home since April, 1899.

The above include all of the homes visited by Mrs. Harvie this year, and affect thirty-two children. Of the remaining twenty-eight children Mr. Keane has visited fourteen during the year in addition to visiting a number of those visited by Mrs. Harvie, and his reports are similar to those of Mrs. Harvie.



SUBSCRIPTION, &c., LIST, 1898-99.

Mr. Sheriff Sweetland.....	\$1 00	Miss Amea F. Blair.....	\$1 00
Rev. Father Whelan	2 00	A. F. May, Esq.....	1 00
Mrs. H. A. F. MacLeod	1 00	George Burn, Esq.....	1 00
H. A. F. MacLeod, Esq	1 00	Miss Seymour	1 00
Miss Urquhart.....	1 00	Lady Ritchie.....	1 00
Miss Proctor.....	1 00	W. A. D. Lees, Esq.....	1 00
Col. Irwin.....	5 00	Lady Grant.....	1 00
Mrs. Irwin	5 00	John Keane.....	1 00
Mrs. Gwynne.....	1 00	Ald. W. Campbell.....	1 00
Mrs. Holbrook	2 00	Charles Murphy, Esq	2 00
Rev. Canon Pollard.....	1 00	Mrs. C. A. Gough	1 00
John Hardie, Esq.....	1 00	Miss C. Sinclair, M.D	1 00
W. L. Scott, Esq.....	5 00	Ald. D'Arcy Scott.....	1 00
W. F. Boardman, Esq	1 00	Sohn Bishop, Esq.....	1 00
J. F. Waters, Esq.....	1 00	Dr. H. M. Ami	1 00
Hon. R. W. Scott.....	1 00	Hon. E. H. Bronson	1 00
Mrs. Scott.....	1 00	Mrs. E. H. Bronson	1 00
J. U. Vincent, Esq.....	1 00	Kings Daughters per Dr. Sin-	
Mrs. C. McNab	1 00	clair	2 00
Miss Read.....	1 00	A friend per Dr. Sinclair ...	1 00
P. D. Ross, Esq.....	5 00	Refund (case of W. B.)	2 00
S. Hamilton	1 00	Mrs. H. Dixon, Sudbury ...	2 00
Mrs. H. G. Lamothe.....	1 00	Refund (case of A. D.).....	10 00
Mrs. J. M. Musgrove.....	2 00	Miss Seymour (special)	1 00
Miss Durie.....	1 00		
Mrs. W. A. Leggo.....	2 00		
		Total.....	\$82 00