

S. P. C. A. MEETING.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

So strongly do I feel upon this subject that I am going to ask for a committee to assist me in prosecuting this most desirable part of our work, and to see whether we cannot initiate such a movement in New Brunswick, and to begin wherever we are allowed to do so, in the Sunday schools in default of the day schools. I will offer a prize of a silver medal or badge for the best essay or recitation on the subject of kindness to animals, the said prize to be competed for by children according to age, and to be adjudged by competent persons, and the prize, or prizes, if any one else will join me, to be presented at a public meeting of the children of the city and their friends in the opera house on some suitable day next fall. If the children of our city may not be interested in one way they can be in another. There can be no question as to the great and almost inestimable good which would accrue to them all, is they could in some tangible way be enlisted to this noble cause. "Just as soon and so far as we can pour into our children's homes the songs, the poems and literature of mercy towards the lower creatures, just as soon and so far shall we reach the root not not only of cruelty, but of crime."

I advocated at the annual meeting last year the formation of a ladies' auxiliary to our branch. My proposition was not entertained. I am of the same opinion still, and should hail with delight the appointment of a committee to co-operate with me in considering the course of action.

I have to express the sincerest thanks of the society to all those who have become subscribers, or have otherwise shown an interest in our work. The energy of the secretary has been unremittent. I only wish that the state of our funds would allow of some really suitable remuneration being offered to Mr. Sampson for his unflagging zeal and most willing exertions. His name and presence are powerful in the repression of cruelty, and his experience and good judgment are most serviceable to the society. Our thanks are also due and are hereby tendered to J. D. Phinney, K. C., for his services as our honorary legal adviser for which the Branch is sincerely grateful.

Secretary's Report.

C. A. Sampson, Secretary of the Society reported as follows:

A number of meetings of the executive were held during the year, when matters pertaining to the objects of the society were carefully considered, and in now presenting the annual report, we do not feel that we have labored in vain. Many very discouraging circumstances were met with by the officers of the society in exercising their authority and investigating reported cases of cruelty. What really constitutes cruelty in the estimation of many kind hearted persons would not bear the interpretation of law. Not a few persons in this city and vicinity never use a whip while driving a horse, yet there are others who perhaps think as much of their horse as do the others and use the whip freely without being cruel in the eyes of the law.

In different sections of the province an agitation has been kept alive to condemn the use of the overdraw rein, but without success. The claim has been made that it is absolutely necessary under certain conditions and the problem frequently presented to the stipendiary magistrate has been, just where to draw the line. However, we can all remember when this particular piece of harness was unknown, and we fail to recall any very serious results following its absence. In nearly every case where a driver has been asked to loosen the overdraw, the request of the Secretary has been complied with.

During the year a number of cases were dealt with, two of which were taken into the police court. The first serious case engaging the attention of the executive was in March, when a horse driven by an Indian boy dropped dead on the river opposite the city. A thorough investigation revealed the fact that the animal was very old and died from natural causes.

In April last a correspondent writing to the Herald disclosed a most serious case of cruelty in an up river parish. The poor horse attached to a loaded team was so severely beaten by the driver that the faithful animal died on the roadside. Ample information was willingly furnished and willing witnesses were secured and a warrant obtained from the police magistrate for the arrest of the cruel man, but he fled from the Province and we are still awaiting his return.

We are pleased to report a greatly improved condition of treatment of dumb animals not only in the city but in different sections of the country. Barns have been made very much more comfortable than formerly and more satisfactory at-

tempts are made for the care of cattle on the islands as well as around the farm. At two thriving sections along the Nashwaak cases were investigated. One farmer was charged with neglecting to properly feed his stock, and the other with keeping young cattle enclosed in a pasture where no water was available. Both these parties were very indignant, but they had no cause for complaint, and the society has reason to believe that conditions are better today than heretofore. In the city several horses were ordered off the streets for stated times on account of tameness and sore backs or sore shoulders. By order of the secretary two horses were shot and two dogs chloroformed. Not one case is known where imperative orders given were neglected. Through the kindness of friends both in country and city the society has been able to prevent much cruelty, although in not a few instances the secretary was put to much trouble and inconvenience by investigating cases that were not really as serious as reported. Probably a score of tender hearted friends have called the secretary's attention to the same old grey horse always seen upon the streets. The horse has repeatedly been placed in a city stable and the owner charged with the expense. In conversation with the legal authorities we find that it is necessary to positively swear the horse is not fed sufficient food, before he is ordered to the bone yard. At the risk of a suit for damages nobody is willing to assume full responsibility. The owner has been punished for exposing the animal to the weather and he has been frequently warned by the officer. Rumors have again reached the Secretary, that more than one city butcher and two living outside the city still continue to drive cattle tied hoof and horn until the city is reached, but while the telephone and other methods have been brought into requisition, we have been unable during the year to procure a single witness in order to put the law in force to prevent this cruel practice. Complaints repeatedly reach the secretary charging boys with cruelty for hitching a dog to a sled, but a dog may be used in this manner without injury; however a big boy and a little dog form subjects for investigation. Some members of the executive had an unpleasant encounter with a rough character of a peddler and his little dog attached to a gig. A couple of nights spent in the cells and a scathing lecture from the police magistrate were incidents of his last trip to Fredericton.

After considerable experience the Secretary declares that residents of country districts yield more affably and promptly to the directions of the Society than do those of the city.

To the minds of some of our people it is interfering with the rights of citizenship to dictate a change of treatment of their property, should the same happen to be an animal of some kind. However these people must learn to submit to advice or warning from the society when occasion calls for it. Kind friends along the line of the C. P. R. east have frequently furnished information respecting cruel practices in the upper parishes. In not a few instances cattle have been victims of cruel treatment as a result of trespassing on neighbors' property, and in one case a calf's leg was broken. Last year as well as the present, horses were prevented from exposure and suffering by the society, occasioned by dispute in trading. It is discouraging sometimes to witness how very cruel young boys become where they are allowed by their parents to rove about with little restraint. In the early spring some lads set a dog adrift on floating ice, and it was with considerable difficulty and risk the faithful dog was rescued. A young cat was securely tied to one of the wharves and suffered from many hours of exposure. In a yard in the midst of the city several boys tied a cat to a clothesline and deliberately stoned the poor creature until frightened away. In this case it seemed impossible to obtain the names of the cruel lads. Then there are boys who seldom pass a dog on the streets without giving him kick or sending a missile after him, a regardless of its weight or size. In the last exhibition it required the constant watchfulness of the guard in the poultry house to prevent boys molesting the innocent birds. In a most reckless manner, a boy, of whom better treatment was expected was found carrying two live hens by the legs along the streets and swinging them as if they had been prepared for the table. It is from the observation of numerous cases of cruelty such as here mentioned that has made the society anxious to have bands of mercy formed in the public schools. Application has been made for this privilege and we still hope to have the children banded together against cruelty.

It is not our purpose to furnish in detail all the cases which received attention during the year either by letter or personally. The arrival in the city a couple of months ago, of a car load of

western horses engaged the attention of the society, and notwithstanding the numerous stories circulated about the length of time the animals were left without food or water they appeared to be in fair condition. Orders were withheld for a time regarding the unloading of the bronchos but the authorities of the C. P. R. promptly provided them with hay and water. It was feared that this new arrival would be the means of developing cruelty in an increased form as they were untrained. In only two instances was it found necessary to interfere while the bronchos were being broken. Several persons think the rapid driving of horses, especially in holiday time, is a species of cruelty that calls for the interference of the society, but the law does not recognize cruelty in speedy driving, but it does make it a misdemeanor under certain conditions and environment. Probably the horses receiving the best care are the fleet footed steeds. The last case taken before the police magistrate was in December when three lads were charged with cruelly stoning a young animal in a field in the lower part of the city. The case was conducted by Mr. Phinney on behalf of the society, and as our only object is to prevent cruel practices, the boys were dismissed after a wholesome and appropriate lecture from the police magistrate. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the most valuable advice and ready assistance so frequently rendered the society by the police magistrate, who has never made a charge for his services. We are also much indebted to the policemen under his direction, to the Deputy Sheriff and to Detective Roberts. The freedom with which the city press has noticed our work has proved very helpful during the year.

Signaled by Cormorants

The Bell Rock lighthouse keeper, had a singular experience the other day. Toward midnight, according to The London Globe, the Arbroath tugboat hove alongside and wanted to know what was wrong. The captain stated that the signal "Send boat immediately" had been shown. Explanations discovered that two cormorants, tired of fishing, had perched themselves on the signal pole in so peculiar a way that at Arbroath, twelve miles away, it appeared as if the distress signal had been hoisted.

The Hairs of Your Head.

A German physiologist recently devoted himself with great patience to the counting of hairs on different heads. He ascertained the average number on a human head and found that, taking four heads of hair of equal weight, the number of hairs, according to color, was as follows: Red, 90,000; black, 103,000; brown, 109,000; and fair, 140,000.

How It Is Divided.

Out of the £22,000,000 sterling Britain spends annually on her navy, shipbuilding is the largest item, costing £9,500,000. Pay comes next, four and three-quarters millions. Naval armaments cost two and three-quarter millions.

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Among the prominent speakers who will address the meeting are Prof. J. W. Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying; Mr. F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner; Prof. Riddick, Chief of Dairy Division, Ottawa; F. C. Hare, Chief of Poultry Division; Prof. Grisdale, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and Prof. W. J. Kennedy of Iowa.

For further information address,
W. W. HUBBARD,
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Jan. 9-daw. St. John, N. B.

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