

REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE
Relief of the Poor and Destitute
OF THE
City of Toronto :
AND
RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
House of Refuge & Industry
ESTABLISHED UNDER THEIR CARE,
JANUARY, 1837.



TORONTO :
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1837.

ACTING MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE.

Rev. Mr. HARRIS,

“ “ LANG,

“ “ McDONAUGH,

“ “ STEWART,

“ “ MACAULAY,

“ “ LEACH,

“ “ EVANS,

“ “ SOMERSIDES,

“ “ MAXWELL,

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR,

Mr. JAS. BEATY, Mr. JOHN EASTWOOD,

“ JOHN EWART, “ JAS. LESSLIE,

“ JOHN MILLS, “ JOHN LYNCH.

“ WM. CAWTHRA,

JAMES E. SMALL, *Treasurer.*

SAMUEL E. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

REPORT.

The Weekly Committee beg leave to present their Report to the 11th instant, and the Special Committee to whom was committed the drawing up of Rules and Regulations for the House of Refuge and Industry, present also their Draft of those Rules, &c. for the consideration and approval of the General Committee.

The numerous objects requiring the attention of the Superintendant, in the earlier stages of the Establishment, have prevented the regular adjustment of the accounts so as to enable your Committee to give an accurate statement of its affairs to this date; but from the data which have been furnished they can give a general and tolerably correct outline of the proceedings and present condition of the Establishment. Since the house was opened, on the 19th January last, 138 families have received relief—about 100 permanently, and 38 occasionally;—of these, the individuals number about 550 in all, receiving steady or temporary relief to their wants, chiefly by the bestowment of provisions, but, in many instances, by giving also firewood, and, where it could be done, clothing. Of those 550 persons, 54 are widows, 360 children—72 are persons sickly and unable to provide for themselves—13 are females, deserted by their husbands—and 51 others in various circumstances of distress from

want of employment, &c. &c. The number of inmates in the house, is 36—of these, 10 are widows—2 deserted females—19 are children, and 5 men.

The total outlay of the establishment amounts to about £155—and the average daily cost, about 40s., which, however, will be increased considerably after the 18th instant, when the bread contract expires.

Your Committee respectfully urge the necessity of making diligent exertion to obtain the means of employment for the poor, generally, but especially for the inmates of the house. The good effects of the institution are already perceptible on the character of some who have been received into the house ; and many, no doubt, will gladly hail the means thus held out to them, and be rescued from poverty, misery, and degradation, and restored to happiness and usefulness, while others will be delivered from the afflictions peculiarly the lot of those who are without husbands, or parents, or friends, and destitute of pecuniary means or employment during the rigours of winter. The regular visitations of the Weekly Committee, after the routine business of the day, cannot be too earnestly desired as a powerful means of advancing the usefulness of the institution.

All which is respectfully submitted.

D. MACAULAY,

Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

Toronto, 13th February, 1837.

*Abstract of Account between Jas. E. Small,
Treasurer, and the House of Industry.*

Dr.

To amount of private subscrip- tions received up to 6th Feb.	£162	0	3
To amount of vote of Council for fitting up the House,	40	0	0
To amt. from Magistrates fee fund given to the Institution by the Aldermen of late Corporation,	25	0	0
	£227	0	3

Cr.

By cash paid to J. Cur- ran, at sundry times, per order of the Sub- Committee,	£67	10	0
By amount paid to the Dorcas Soc'y pr ord.	5	0	0
By amount paid to the Dist. Sabbath School, per order,	2	10	0
By cash paid E. Hyland per order,	0	5	0
		75	5 0
Balance in Treasurer's hands the 13th February, 1837,	£151	15	3

JAMES E. SMALL,

Treasurer.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

I.

ON CLEANLINESS.

1. That no inmate shall be permitted to sit down to breakfast, without having been properly washed, or to any other meal, without appearing as clean and tidy as possible—that it will be the duty of every inmate, and of the females in particular, to keep their apartments clean—that the sleeping apartments be scrubbed out every morning, by a requisite number of females, in rotation, before 10 o'clock—and that the whole establishment be thoroughly cleaned, at least, once a week.

2. That the time for a change of apparel be at the discretion of the Superintendent, as also the ventilation of the house.

II.

ON THE MAINTENANCE OF IN-DOOR PENSIONERS.

1. That the food shall, in all cases, be wholesome and plain, and supplied with a proper regard to economy.

2. During the high price of grain, the breakfast or supper shall be either of tea or coffee, as the Superintendent may

deem best ; the same to be discontinued as soon as corn meal can be obtained at a moderate price, which shall be used in preference to either of the others.

3. The dinner shall be of soup, made of fresh beef, or pork, with peas, barley, or rice, (and vegetables), and the Superintendent shall be empowered to change the diet, under peculiar circumstances, when it can be done without materially increasing the expenses of the establishment.

4. The proportion to adults shall be, for breakfast, half a pound of bread, and a pint of tea or coffee—for supper, the same—for dinner, half a pound of bread, and a pint of soup—a discretionary power being given to the Superintendent to vary the proportions, according as the circumstances of the individuals may appear to warrant, and to regulate the proportions for children and the sick.

5. Any instances of abuse or waste of food shall be particularly noted and reported to the Committee.

III.

ON THE RELIEF OF OUT-DOOR PENSIONERS.

1. To prevent, as much as possible, the abuse of the charity of the citizens, no case shall be admitted to permanent or fixed relief, until it shall have been carefully investigated by the Superintendent or any of the Committee, and the report thereof entered regularly in the

book kept for that purpose ; and the relief afforded, shall, in every instance, be given so as to effectually prevent its being mis-employed, or appropriated to improper purposes.

2. All persons, obtaining relief, shall, if practicable, be furnished also with employment.

3. Persons in health, receiving relief, shall be discharged as soon as they can obtain employment, or have had presented to them the means of earning a livelihood.

4. Any person who may be found selling the firewood, clothing, or provisions which have been furnished them in charity, shall be discharged from the Institution.

IV.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR.

1. Every person admitted into the House of Industry shall be expected to labour, according to their strength and capacity, during the hours appointed for that purpose,—towards providing means to defray the expenses of their maintenance,—and that those who have exceeded the amount of work prescribed shall be rewarded for it.

V.

ON THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE INMATES.

1. That no profane or immoral language or conversation shall be tolerated in the establishment, and any person

found habitually violating this rule or guilty of intemperance shall be reported to the Committee.

2. That, on every Sabbath, a convenient hour shall be appointed when the Ministers or others of the various denominations of Christians in the City, who may be willing to attend, shall assemble, with the inmates, to read the Scriptures, —to inculcate moral duties, and to unite in prayer with all who may choose to attend,—it being clearly understood that nothing of a sectarian character, shall, at any time, be introduced which may lead to the breaking up of the harmony and peace which should exist in the establishment.

VI.

RULES FOR THE WEEKLY COMMITTEE.

1. It shall be the duty of the Weekly Committee to report the occurrences of the past week--and every thing of importance connected with the Institution, —and to suggest any improvements to the consideration of the General Committee.

VII.

RULES FOR THE SUPERINTENDANT.

1. The Superintendent shall always be at the post of duty to see the preceding Rules put in operation—and also to see that no spirituous liquors be admitted into the house ; that there be no smoking, and

no quarrelling—and to see that all the inmates be in bed at 9 o'clock, in winter, and 10 o'clock, in summer, and the lights extinguished—and that he report to the Weekly Committee the names of those who are refractory and refuse to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Institution—that he receive all donations of food and clothing, and keep a register of the same—and that, as a stimulus to good behaviour, it be communicated to the inmates, that the Superintendant has a power granted him, from the General Committee, to give a certificate of good character, if merited, to any inmate about to leave the house, or to refuse the same, if the conduct of the individual has been reprehensible.

2. That he see that no one be permitted to leave the house, for the purpose of going into the City, without his permission—and that no stranger be allowed access to the inmates without his leave.

VIII.

That the Dorcas Society be requested to appoint a Committee of Ladies, to visit the house daily, and take a kind of general *surveillance*, and to counsel the females, examine their work, &c. &c.

TO THE CITIZENS OF TORONTO.

The Report of the Committee appointed to take charge of your contributions for the poor, and to see to their effective distribution for the purposes intended, will give you information relative to the discharge of the duties assigned to it. The extent of human suffering in this City could only be discovered by the searching operations of an Institution similar to that which your Committee has established; and your benefactions could only be made to minister relief to the sufferers, in its largest degree, through the channel of such an Institution, whose tendency is to discriminate between the actual and the pretended poor, and to distribute the charity accordingly. The advantages of the system pursued are many—to state some of them:—

1st. It will ultimately put down street-begging.

2nd. It will drive the indolent and intemperate to seek labour in the country.

3rd. The real objects of sympathy will be better taken care of.

4th. It will be a pecuniary advantage to the public, as waste of charity will be prevented.

5th. Much immorality, and the wretchedness attending it, will be prevented.

To accomplish these objects, the co-operation of the benevolent is earnestly solicited:—

1st. By furnishing means of clothing and supporting the poor by cast-off dresses, old shoes, &c., remnants of cloth, and such like ; and by donations of provisions and money.

2nd. By furnishing employment for the poor—and finding places for servants and apprentices — common needle work — knitting, and other kinds of work, may be done by the inmates of the house. The Committee will guarantee the safety of whatever work may be sent to the Superintendent for the poor.

3rd. By visiting the House of Industry and personally inspecting the cases relieved, and by countenancing and encouraging the inmates in the discharge of their duties.

P. S.—Donations of money may be sent to James E. Small, Esq., Treasurer, —all other donations may be sent to the Establishment, on Richmond Street—or will be sent for, if required.