

Work of Santa Cruz Branch of Humane Society

Ed. "Sentinel":—In the issue of January 13th appears a communication that looks like an injustice to the local humane society.

If the person who sent in this

communication had taken the trouble to ascertain the name of the fellow who starved and drove the poor brute that fell in harness, we might perhaps have given him warning that we shall watch him in the future, and try to bring him to justice for further cruelty.

If the writer of that communication means to imply that the humane society is slack in the performance of its duty, this accusation would prove him a stranger to our city and our institutions. We, the Humane So-

ciety of Santa Cruz county, have not more than half a dozen active or working members; F. D. Baldwin, president, kind, conscientious man, is bank president as well; and though he is always ready to take up cases of extreme cruelty, he has not the necessary time to hunt them up. Emmet C. Rittenhouse, secretary, is always ready to do his duty and more; Mrs. L. L. Trumbly, our treasurer, regrets only that there is so little for her to do.

Joseph F. Williams, our special officer, has worked for us all these years for humanity's sake. The only humane officer in this county who pretends, even, to draw a salary, he receives in the way of salary, very little more, sometimes not as much, as it costs him for gasoline to drive his automobile the great distances in the country which he must sometimes make to investigate cases reported to him or to me.

The day has gone by when I can rush off in response to a telephone call for aid to a horse being beaten, or a dog tied up and starved; but Mr. Williams looks into every case, even when the informant refuses to give his name. To be sure we sometimes find that a neighbor's spite has sent out the message; and sometimes it is sneeringly intimated, when we are doing our best to rescue animals from cruelty and starvation, that we are poking our nose into matters that do not concern us.

While John S. Scott and Mrs. Scott lived in this community the humane society flourished. The Scotts were heart and soul in the cause, and had both leisure and means to devote to the work. But those of us that are left are doing what we can.

I can not close without paying tribute to Chief Hannah for the prompt attention he gives to every case of cruelty brought before him; and the men at the fire house on Church St. have been our faithful friends and helpful allies.

I hope, Mr. Editor, you will give space to this rather lengthy article, for I feel that we have been unjustly criticised on several occasions.

J. CLIFFORD McCrackin,

Cor. Secretary Humane Society of Santa Cruz County.