

CITY HALL PIGEONS COO HAPPILY WHILE DESTRUCTION PENDS

Handful of Determined Women All That Stands Between Birds and Official Decree of Extermination.

When Director Harte, of the Department of Health and Charities, begins his crusade against the ravens of City Hall Square, if he does about one, he will find he must contend with Mrs. M. M. Halvey, office manager of the Women's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The crusade was to have begun today, but Mrs. Halvey had a delegation of women who called upon the Director. He listened to their remonstrance against killing the pigeons and then stated he would hold the matter under advisement. Mrs. Halvey says there will be no slaughter of the pigeons.

She is not threatening in attitude or anything like that, but her aim is to save these birds.

Some people say that the City Hall pigeons are a nuisance. Others say the pigeons are admirers to City Hall Square. They flock there in pigeons of St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice. Who would ever hear of St. Mark's if it were not for the pigeons, they ask. If it were not for St. Mark's, it is argued, who would ever hear of Venice. A few people, perhaps, might remember it because of its wet highways and because a certain Bill Shakespeare wrote a drama concerning a messiah of the place.

There are a few friends of the pigeons even in City Hall. Sheriff A. S. Sandoz, Albert says: "Let the pigeons stay. I give you these little bits of the public nearly 30 pounds of feed each week. There are a number of traps in the City Hall that should be disposed of," says the Sheriff with a wiser smile. What do you say, Mr. Sandoz?

When the City Hall was completed, and before even the scaffolding could be removed, the pigeons were taken to comfortable coops and dens that were not meant for such usage. The pigeons were over and decided that under the new conditions they would be better off. It was said to have been for years.

THEY FEEL HOME AGAIN

Director Harte is contemplating aiming a high-pressure fire hose at the caves and dens of the pigeons. That was tried once before during the Heburn administration. While "constant readers" write to the newspapers protesting against the cruelty, the wet pigeons, with cries of protest and anger, flew over to Broad Street Station and landed upon the tracks. There they dried off, groomed themselves and returned to City Hall Square in the old-fashioned manner.

When a fire hose did not discourage them last, the Director has now had Assistant Director of Public Safety, and says he had his new pigeons all the way from the building vaults to send him. He says he knows how about them for he has about 200,000 and that of late in the man who devoted his life to the study of the birds.

The Director is said to have said he will have the pigeons for several days' time from the time he is in the city. Some in the most mental condition bumped against the screen.

They became irritated and were kept. These the Director got used to the device and carefully looked under the screen to find their roosting places.

A number of the City Hall range were among the pigeon owners. He fed the birds every morning and as they flew from the hall on the City Hall roof he would write the birds of a half dozen or so. He did so quietly as a rule and the pigeons did not know it. The birds, it is said, that later ate pigeon got out even for breakfast. The first of pigeons had been taken.

John Dillman, a former detective, feeds the pigeons every day. He will chase the birds if they are exterminated. He will be well, sending some man who feeds the pigeons every time they are exterminated. It is remarkable how low he can look up at the pigeon and himself and get into the camera range.

M. M. Halvey, saves the pigeons (1914)

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