

# HUMANE THESE AGENTS ARE

## Cruelty to Animals Worse Than Cruelty to Human Beings?

### EXTRAORDINARY CASE AT OXFORD

Officers of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Arrest Innocent Boys for Cruelty to Horses and Then Treat the Boys Pretty Roughly.

(Special to the Register).

Oxford, Dec. 1.—This little town is not yet done talking about the case brought last Friday by agents of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to punish two boys, James Drake and Thomas O'Neill, for alleged maltreatment of a pair of horses. The inhabitants of this village, after witnessing the attempts to convict the boys believe that some society ought to be formed to prevent Humane society agents from maltreating human beings.

The story of this case is an interesting one and needs no explanation. Drake belongs in Kettleton and is 16 years old. O'Neill is an Ansonia boy aged 18. They were charged with driving the horses through Seymour with a heavy load of charcoal when the animals were unfit to work. They were arrested in Seymour and kept in the damp and dark lock-up in that town over Friday night, handcuffed together. On Saturday morning they were brought to Oxford to be tried. The trial was set down for 9 o'clock before Justice R. G. Robinson, but the prosecution was not ready at that hour and a continuance was taken till 11 and at 11 another continuance was taken till 1 o'clock, and again till 4 o'clock, when it was shown that the boys were innocent, and that Henry Drake, father of one of them, was the driver of the horses.

All through the night and the day the boys were kept locked together and the bracelets were so tight on their wrists that the hand of the Drake boy swelled and pained him so that he cried out at intervals. After the trial a search was made for the key to unlock the bracelets, but it could not be found, having been lost or left in Seymour by the agents for the Humane society. In this predicament the boys had to be taken to a near-by blacksmith shop where the handcuffs were cut off their wrists with a cold chisel.

The very Humane society in its zeal to inflict penalty on those who had been cruel to animals, had not thought that the boys needed something to eat, so after the boys were released and the excitement had somewhat subsided they complained of excessive hunger. And hungry they must have been, for a fast growing boy can't go many hours without food and not suffer badly.

The Oxford people will not stand another case like this and they may take action against the agents in this case.