

Until 1858 there was no building set apart as a Merchants' Exchange, when a building was erected upon the present site, but destroyed by fire on Christmas morning, 1865. The present building is three stories high, with basement and finished attics. The façades are cut-stone, the principal one facing on St. Sacrament street, being in the Italian style, with main entrance in the centre.

The Corn Exchange forms the corner of St. Sacrament, St. John, and St. Alexis streets. It is three stories in height, the upper being equal in height to the two lower ones. The lower story and a portion of the second is of dressed Montreal stone. The upper portion is of red brick, with stone dressing. The upper flat is fitted up as an elegant and spacious hall for the transaction of business, and is frescoed in a simple yet effective style. The room is well lighted with lofty windows on three sides.

The City Hall is a very handsome building, close to the Court House. It is 485 feet in length, and is built in adaptation of modern French style, with lofty mansard roofs and central pavilion. All the municipal offices are in this building. The Recorder's Court and Police Office are in the basement. The city is governed by a Mayor, elected annually, and thirty-three aldermen. Three aldermen, one of whom retires every year, are elected by each of the wards of the city.

The Harbour Commission consists of members nominated partly by the Montreal Board of Trade, the Corn Exchange, and the City Council, and partly by the Dominion Government. Its duties are to watch over the harbour, and generally to supervise all matters connected with the commerce of the city, other than the collection of custom duties. The Board has also care of the channel of the river as far as Quebec. The Commission occupies a large cut-stone building adjoining the Examining Warehouse.

The Inland Revenue Office is a building on Custom House Square, which was, in old times, the market-place of the town.

The Board of Arts and Manufactures is a commission nominated by the Provincial Government for holding industrial exhibitions, carrying on schools of technical art, etc. It occupies the large building at the east end of the Champ de Mars, formerly occupied by the Geological Survey.