
WESTMOUNT :: THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

and winding avenues on its mountain heights give some of the most charming landscape effects to be seen anywhere. The citizens are imbued with a common desire to make the city a beautiful one, and in the construction of their houses they all have an eye to the ensemble effect. To secure permission to build in Westmount, plans must not only be submitted to the City Engineer and be checked over to see that the proposed buildings will comply with all the city by-laws, but they must meet with the approval of an Architectural Commission composed of the Mayor, General Manager, and City Engineer, together with four prominent architects, residing in Westmount, whose services are purely voluntary.

Model Form of Government

THE form of government of the city is a most up-to-date one. Until some five years ago the city was managed by committees of council, with only the Mayor at the head of things, and this naturally had a tendency to result in overlapping and waste of time and efficiency. Moreover, as the city grew this system became extremely burdensome to the aldermen, who eventually had to spend about one-half of their evenings at the City Hall.

It was then decided to adopt the same system as has been evolved for commercial corporations, namely, to manage all departments through experts, culminating in an expert governing head, all acting under a commission equivalent to a president and board of directors.

Thus two distinct elements were created for the structure of the municipal government—the legislative and the executive, the former elected by and from the people, the latter appointed by the former. The system has worked out admirably in Westmount, which was fortunate in securing an able general manager in the person of Mr. George W. Thompson, formerly manager of the Westmount municipal lighting plant.

It may be added that the municipal staff is imbued with a high sense of responsibility and loyalty, and there has never been a charge of graft or misdemeanor against an employee in the history of the municipality.

Public Attractions of the City

AMONG the attractions of the city is an excellent park system. The main park, which is situated in the centre of the lower level, is one of the beauty spots of the island of Montreal, and every fine day in summer hundreds of people may be seen there, admiring the gardens, sitting on the benches under the trees, or indulging in sports. In winter it is the centre for skating and other winter sports.