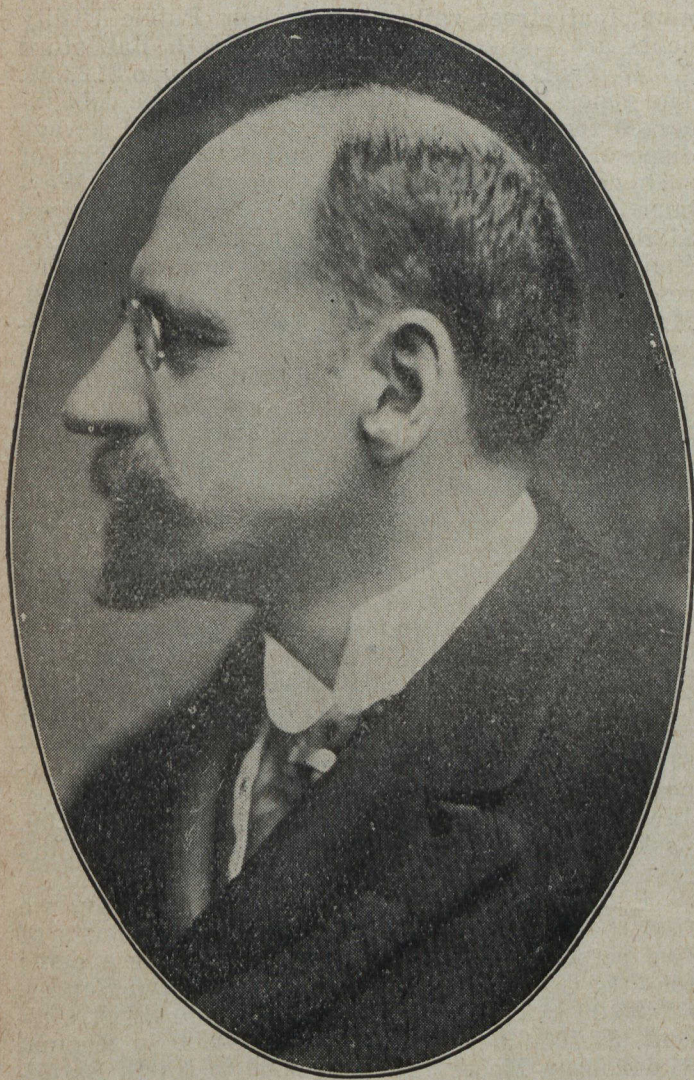


Mayor Beaubien of Outremont

(President Union of Quebec Municipalities.)



When the Quebec Municipal Union was established in 1919 it was determined that its first President be a strong man—not through the size of the municipality represented but in his own personality—and the choice of the first convention of the Union fell upon Mayor Joseph Beaubien of Outremont, P.Q. . . . That the choice was a popular as well as a wise one is proved by Mr. Beaubien's re-election to a third term of the presidency at the last convention of the Union.

The strength of Mayor Beaubien lies in his earnestness. Whatever he takes up must be carried to a logical sequence, and fortunately for his native city and the municipal life of the province he took up municipal government years ago. . . . At first, because of his large real estate interests in Outremont, a certain amount of self-interest might have influenced his taking up civic affairs as an alderman. . . . Be that as it may it was soon realized by the new alderman that there were many phases in civic administration that required much study and investigation before any intelligent consideration could be

given to the problems affecting the community. . . . And certainly the then alderman did study to some purpose, for no man to-day has a better grasp of municipal politics—its government and administration—than has Joseph Beaubien, and no man has used his vast civic knowledge so unselfishly in the interest of his city as has this same man. . . . First as an alderman, then as mayor, and again as President of the Provincial Union he has given real service—nothing in civics being too big or too small for him to handle. . . . He is one of the few men who have introduced sound business into public affairs.

The district of Montreal is now under the financial supervision of the Metropolitan Commission—a body made up of representatives of sixteen municipalities surrounding and including the City of Montreal. . . . Before the commission came into being, much time was given by those responsible for its establishment in preparing a workable charter, and none was more active in the work than Mayor Beaubien, who is himself a member of the Commission.

As a business man, Mayor Beaubien has many interests in the city and district of Montreal, one of his activities being the presidency of the Frontenac Breweries Ltd., the largest single brewery in Canada, but as already indicated his mental makeup is such that business activities alone would never satisfy it, so that his interest in civic affairs is as much a pleasure as a duty. . . . His sense of public responsibility is hereditary for since his ancestor Troder de Beaubien came over from France in 1650, many members of the family have given their lives to public affairs. His father, the Hon. L. Beaubien, was a member of the Provincial government, and his brother is now a member of the senate. . . .

The City of Outremont of which Mr. Beaubien is mayor, is in every sense of the word a model city. . . . Located just outside of Montreal the citizens wisely decided to make it as much as possible a residential suburb and they have well succeeded. . . . To a large extent this is due to Mayor Beaubien whose family property still covers a large portion of the municipality, though much of it has been sold for building houses.

Ex-Soldiers on the Land

According to reports the Soldiers' Settlement Board has placed 27,000 ex-soldiers on the land and that 44,000 have qualified for settlement. This makes good reading particularly when it is considered that less than ten per cent. have failed to make good. Those soldier settlers, who naturally make the best of citizens, because of their past sacrifices, cannot help but have a good influence on the community life of the districts in which they are located. A country without a national spirit cannot make much progress, and we do not know of any class that can establish such a spirit so well as the men who represented Canada on the battlefields of France. Their war experiences, some of them bitter, while they broadened their outlook intensified their national spirit, and now that they are carrying out their peace pursuits, they will not forget.