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FIVE YEARS OF THE HEALTH LEAGUE'S WORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Origin and Work OF The Health League Persistent Efforts And Notable Results A Great Health Survey as a Crowning Success

PUBLIC INTEREST AROUSED

ITS aims achieved, the Montreal Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League founded in 1924 primarily to increase public interest in health work was brought to an end at a special meeting in the Mount Royal Hotel last evening. But a child of the older organization, the Montreal Health Survey Committee which was created on the initiative of the older organization will live on to perpetuate the vigilance by keeping a watchful eye on every part of the health field.

Report By Board of Directors of Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League

What the League has accomplished was set out in a report from the Board of Directors and read by Dr. Fleming. The full text of the report follows:

"This report is presented by the directors as an account of their stewardship for the past five years. The Montreal Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League was organized at a meeting held on March 24, 1924. In October of the same year, an office was opened in the city.

"The formation of the league was the expression of a desire to improve health conditions in Montreal. To the fight against tuberculosis and other preventable diseases, it was not only the broad conception of this organization, but the magnificent financial backing which made its creation possible. In previous annual reports, details and statistics of the Health League's work were presented and, therefore, they are not repeated here. During 1929, the staff were fully occupied with completion of the health survey, with the maintenance of the French Health Centre, and with popular health instruction.

"The directors desire to record, in this report, a brief review of the activities of the Health League, the large measure of success which has attended the work, as well as to present certain recommendations for the consideration of the members.

"The objectives of the Health League should be considered in the light of the purpose of the undertaking, which was to increase public interest in health and to assist in developing a public opinion which would create the demand for, and second, enable the municipal authorities to undertake a reasonable health program; for it is only by understanding that health is a responsibility of the state and, therefore, a voluntary health agency, has a place in assisting but not in relieving the state of its health responsibilities.

INCREASE PUBLIC INTEREST.

"The whole work of the Health League has centred around the one idea of increasing public interest in health work and so making possible the actions which are the responsibilities. Today we find:

"1. Public interest in health work is greater than ever before.

"A very distinct evidence of a general desire for improved conditions.

"3. Unmistakable signs that the public and the official authorities are coming to regard health as an official responsibility.

"4. The budget of the municipal Health Department has been materially increased.

"5. Not only have all staff vacancies in the municipal Health Department been regularly filled, but the staff has been increased and the laboratory is functioning with a bacteriologist in charge.

"6. These, we feel, are accomplishments due largely to the contribution which the Health League has made, and constitute the measure of the success of our main objective.

POPULAR HEALTH EDUCATION.

"Popular health education draws public attention to the need for health work. It constantly reminds the public that preventable diseases are killing many of their friends, injuring others, and causing pain, sorrow and expense. What public health has done for the nation, and the need and value of a health department as the means for so doing are well known.

"At the same time, the elementary principles of healthy living are repeated, for it is these principles which are the basis of health, and constitute the basis of the work of the Health League.

"As a result of this effort, the Canadian Medical Association, a national body, has undertaken to conduct a series of health camps which have now been extended to cover the whole Dominion. Two editions of a booklet, 'Health in the Home', were issued by our League in English and in French. A book-plate of health rules was given at each school child in the city. Both book-plate and book-plate have received widespread attention, and have brought many requests for copies from outside our city. A course of 10 lessons with illustrations was given to several hundred women. For three reference tables health nurses were furnished to summer camps which take mother and children. Such camps offer an excellent opportunity for effective health teaching.

"Those in charge of one of the camps were so satisfied that they provided a service for themselves last summer. Every opportunity has been taken to speak to groups, large or small, and to prepare special articles for various publications. The managing director has given, on an average, twenty-five formal addresses to groups this year. In addition, the fifteen health nurses on the staff brought their health message to many hundreds of homes each year.

"In these ways, the Health League has spread health knowledge, increased health practices, and interested the

materially in the Montreal Health Survey.

"This epoch-making survey was conceived by the General Health League and was made possible by this organization. The Montreal health survey committee was formed upon the invitation of the Health League, and through our chairman, Sir Arthur Currie.

PERFORMED WORK

"The Health League staff performed the actual work of the survey, under the direction of the survey consultants, the committee administrative practice of the American Public Health Association. In this way, the information and experience gained through the league's three years of work were made available for the survey, and it is fair to say that without the data furnished by the league, the survey could not have been such a thorough and complete study as it was. The Health League also furnished the headquarters of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company printed the report.

"The directors of the Health League are certain that every Montreal citizen joins with them in expressing to the survey committee appreciation of a debt of gratitude, and likewise to indicate who, by their co-operation, made possible the completeness of the survey.

"The interest stimulated and the general approval of the purpose and honesty of the survey permit us to conclude that results will quickly follow.

"In making available the services of Dr. J. A. Boudoin to assist in the new accomplished federation of French-speaking health agencies, the Health League has made an important contribution to health work.

"In addition, the league's influence will continue to make itself felt in Montreal through the former members of the survey, most of whom have obtained positions with local organizations.

SPLENDID CO-OPERATION

"The directors of the Health League wish to express their thanks to the various organizations and group officials and voluntary workers for their unflinching assistance and support. The success which the league has had may be credited, in no small measure, to the splendid co-operation received from them.

"Particular reference should be made to the Canadian Social Hygiene Council, who have acted as a local committee for several years. The Council gave generous financial support for the purpose of the health survey.

"This is a brief summary of the work done. The situation as regards health work is somewhat altered since the league was organized in 1924. Since the survey, which covered 1927, new activities and personnel have been authorized by the city administration under Aldermen Desroches, which bring the Health Department expenditures to approximately \$500,000 a year. We can see that the Health Department has been increased already by 50 per cent. of the increased appropriation recommended in the survey report.

"Finally, your directors are satisfied that the culmination of the work of the Health League has been attained in the appointment of a Board of Health, which will have as its main object the promotion of the health survey committee, the formation of which was the direct outcome of four years' work of the Health League.

"Your directors are confident that the citizens of Montreal will watch the work of the Health Department and the efforts of the Board of Health with critical interest, and that there will be a natural demand for a repetition of the health survey within a reasonable time, so that the citizens may keep abreast of the progress of the work.

BRIGHT FUTURE.

"The future is surely full of hope, if only the good things which are being maintained, and which we judge, is likely to occur for several reasons: First of all, the interest of the public in health; secondly, practical evidence on the part of the public authorities, which is shown by the considerable increase of the budget for health work; thirdly, the federation of French-speaking health agencies, which will mean increased service of a better quality. In other words, we find now an acceptance of public responsibility, the desire for a health survey, demonstration and service with possibilities of a Health Council from federated groups. These, it would seem, provide an adequate health organization, with but one exception, which, however, is a vital one.

"We have stated that we believe the progress made has been the result of increased public interest, an understanding of health needs, and support of measures to improve conditions.

"Your directors feel that there is a need, which will continue for a few years, for some agency to concentrate on the one objective of furthering the development of the Department of Health.

"The logical body to do this is the one which has made such an auspicious beginning and which has won the public confidence—the Montreal Health Survey Committee. The committee, if continued, would not become an operating health agency, but would limit itself to securing the development of the Department of Health. Through published statements, it would keep the public informed as to the progress of the survey, and through its recommendations. It would keep those recommendations alive. It would, by means of publications and lectures, and in other ways, secure public interest in and support for health measures and health expenditures. The health survey should be repeated in a few years to measure progress and to reconsider Montreal's health problems. A budget for the work of the survey committee should not exceed \$10,000 a year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

"Your directors therefore recommend:

"1. That the Montreal Health Survey Committee, which was created on the initiative of the General Health League, be asked to continue to function along the lines indicated.

"2. That, in the light of the facts as set out, the Montreal Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League be permitted to cease its activities. Having come into existence for the purpose of arousing public interest in health work, and so promoting the development of the municipal Department of Health, the Health League today finds that the desired public interest is aroused, that there exists, through the survey, a health program for Montreal, and that the Montreal Health Survey Committee, which the league invited to function, is best able to do what remains to be done as regards securing action on its report. Therefore, your directors recommend that, not because of the work is done, but because on account

Officers of the Health League Since Its Inception



Sir Arthur Currie, Lord Atholstan, Dr. J. A. Boudoin, Dr. J. A. Jarry, Lyon Cohen, Dr. A. Grant Fleming, Dr. C. F. Martin, Dr. W. H. Atherton, Louis Colwell, Dr. R. E. J. C. Kennedy, Dr. L. de L. Harwood, The late Sir Lomer Gouin, Michael Hirsch, Dr. J. A. Boudoin, Dr. J. A. Jarry, Lyon Cohen, Dr. A. Grant Fleming, Dr. C. F. Martin, Dr. W. H. Atherton, Louis Colwell.

LITTLE SUNSHINE BEING RECORDED

Only Three Bright Days Reported Since Beginning of Month

Hail and sleet mixed with small quantities of rain and snow slowed up traffic twice during the morning today as the sticky mixture clung to street car glass and automobile windshields creating poor visibility as well as making the streets treacherously slippery.

Montreal has been fortunate so far in not getting the full force of storms that have been continuously raging over the Northern Hemisphere, according to wire dispatches which tell of rapidly mounting death lists. While escaping strong gales, the City has been subject to all other vagaries of the freakish weather since late autumn, and the present month promises to outdo both November and December in providing uncomfortable and unhealthy extremes.

The month to date shows a mean temperature of 24 degrees, nearly twice as warm as the normal January, according to weather statistics at McGill Observatory. The sunshine period is abnormally low, only three bright days having been recorded. Raintail recorded this month to date so far is but a fraction of an inch less than the greatest rainfall ever registered in January in the 55 years history of the observatory. A total of 2.5 inches have fallen.

No Complaint in Assault Case

Failure of the complainant to appear in court resulted in suspended sentence for David Craig, 1543 Bishop street, charged with assault this morning in the Recorder's Court.

The charge against Craig was that he had struck Miss Delle B. Paton, address unknown, a blow in the face. He pleaded guilty. When the complainant did not appear to tell the circumstances of the encounter, Recorder Dufresne suspended sentence. Constable Landy and Mrs. Mouton, 2:15 o'clock this morning.

THE HEALTH LEAGUE'S REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The balance sheet of the league is as follows:—

	1925	1926	1927	1928	Total
Administration	\$4,061.07	\$19,833.24	\$20,383.50	\$20,831.14	\$10,061.16
Tuberculosis Demonstration	9,510.01	8,428.57	7,106.42	61.00	25,055.00
French Centre	7,138.48	7,076.78	7,631.81	7,068.04	29,335.19
English Centre	2,302.37	6,875.13	7,790.03	711.40	17,779.93
Diphtheria Immunization	116.54	1,092.15	701.24	213.69	2,183.62
Health Education	1,498.64	778.31	2,402.02	2,907.02	7,586.79
Sundries	1,210.92	324.50	62.00		2,187.57
Summer Day Camp	1,151.12	600.00			1,751.12
	\$5,802.31	\$42,371.95	\$45,961.92	\$46,614.64	\$31,172.21
					\$171,423.31

INCOME

Lord Atholstan	\$150,000.00
Sir Mortimer Davis	10,000.00
G. R. Hosmer, Managing Director	500.00
Through Sir Arthur Currie	8,000.00
Canadian Social Hygiene Council	1,500.00
Other (including sundry small subscriptions, bank interest, refunds, etc.)	1,275.30
	\$171,275.30

SENDS GREETINGS TO CANADIAN FRIENDS

Recalling pleasant memories of a cordial reception while in Rouen, France, two years ago, a letter wishing the members the compliments of the season was received by the Canadian Historical Society yesterday. The well-wisher was Dr. Louis Boucher, who was chairman of the reception committee that greeted the Canadian excursion there two years ago. Many members of the excursion are scattered far and wide over Canada today.

Among those who were members of the excursion are P. G. Roy, chief historian and architect at Quebec; Lieut.-Col. Marquis, Alderman Savard of Montreal; Victor Morin, Mr. Rochon, Dr. P. de Ierville; J. P. Dufresne, Mr. A. Harvey, Rev. Father Boileau and Mrs. Mouton, Duckett, the recipient of the letter.

NO COMPLAINT IN ASSAULT CASE

Failure of the complainant to appear in court resulted in suspended sentence for David Craig, 1543 Bishop street, charged with assault this morning in the Recorder's Court.

COMMISSION HEARS OF EXPROPRIATIONS

The Public Service Commission is hearing today cases relating to the expropriation of lands on the northern shore if the Island asked for by the Montreal & Island Power Company.

"I have noticed that any time an appeal comes to Lord Atholstan, particularly one which affects the human relations, and social life of his fellow citizens, he responds most generously. By his own initiative, he has undertaken to see that the human relations and all matters appertaining to health know his generosity. One has only to walk down the street to see the public attention of the city which he has afforded his fellow citizens who were unfortunately so placed that they were hungry for that is a thing we must not overlook.

"I believe this work you have started has been of great benefit to Montreal."

SAILOR JAILED FOR PURSE SNATCHING

Ernest Daigneault Claims it Was His Companion Who Stole

When the warm spring breezes blow again, and the rivers are cleared of ice and shipping between here and the Great Lakes is resumed, Ernest Daigneault, sailor, will be a free man. Meanwhile he must remain in jail as the result of a four-month term imposed upon him by Judge Lacroix in the Court of Sessions today.

Daigneault was found guilty of purse snatching, on evidence given by New street, a man who was seen to snatch the purse and ran down a lane. Detective O'Neill witnessed the robbery and gave chase, overtaking Daigneault. The man who held the purse escaped.

Testifying in his own behalf, Daigneault declared that it was his companion, Edgar Archambault, who stole the purse, and that he was being with his companion immediately before the theft.

"Then what were you doing," queried the court. "Why did you run away?"

"Well my companion told me he had a situation for me and I decided to follow him," returned the prisoner. "I have been convicted of purse snatching before," added the judge.

"Yes, but that only happens in moments of weakness, never when I have employment," was the rejoinder.

In reply to a question from the court Daigneault stated that his weakness consisted in an accident which he had suffered when he slipped on the deck of a lake boat last summer. He intended to see a lawyer to collect damages for his incapacity, he remarked.

"The lawyers have nothing more to do with that question," commented His Honor. "The insurance companies control it now. Under the new system, a person who suffers from a broken arm gets \$75 while before, a lawyer was able to obtain \$400 for him."

The court stated that the sailor would have to remain in jail for four months and would be freed when shipping is resumed next spring.

MASS MEETING OF WORKERS IS CALLED

Wages and conditions generally in the fancy leather industry in Montreal were discussed yesterday in interviews which J. Shlipacoff, manager of the New York Pocket-Book Workers' Union, had with employers. The Montreal local union of Fancy Leather Workers is affiliated with the New York organization. The results of the conversations will be reported to a mass meeting of employees, in the Monument National tonight. Speakers will be Mr. Shlipacoff and E. Sigel of the Hat and Cap Makers' Union.

Then the Canadian Social Hygiene Council contributed \$1,500 and \$1,275 for various small amounts sundry small subscriptions and bank interest. In all it came to \$171,275.

"The Health Survey Committee will follow the progress of the City in health matters and will keep an eye on what is going on and keep the citizens generally informed."

"I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the report," said C. W. Lindsay, seconding, said to the chairman. "You could not very well indicate your own mind but we all realize and appreciate how much you have done."

Sir Arthur Currie: "I will let you say it if you wish to associate the name of the committee."

Mr. Lindsay said that he would and the report was accepted.

The by-law concerning the organization was read and the motion to give the charter was moved by Dr. C. F. Martin and seconded by Dr. J. R. Eves.

HOORID CONDITIONS

"One shudders when one thinks of the conditions in many of the tenements, and the high death rate, the prevalence of diphtheria, of typhoid, constituted a standing reproach to the health authorities, but against all our citizenship."

"Now that has changed. There is a greater interest in health matters on the part of the public. There have been French and English centres culminating in that health survey, all tending to bring to the health authorities the knowledge of the requirements. And I look forward to the future with a great deal of confidence feeling sure we will go on from one good condition to a better one."

"Not only do we owe a debt of gratitude to Lord Atholstan but I do believe we could have had anything like the success which has attended us without the enthusiasm and ability to co-operate as the knowledge of what was wanted of an managing director. In Dr. Fleming we have been peculiarly fortunate. He knew what he wanted. At least he knew what should be done and he made us realize what was wanted."

"He has given up his time most ungrudgingly and I, for one, am very glad that Dr. Fleming having completed his work for this body is still as busily employed at the medical health school."

"I think also we owe a debt to the press. All his work has been supported by the newspapers, and very full reports of our meetings have been given. Many articles have appeared in the newspapers, and have brought public interest, and not because of the work is done, but because on account

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