

MONTREAL ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS AND GENERAL HEALTH LEAGUE

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Montreal Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League, held on Friday afternoon, December 2nd, 1927, at four o'clock.

Present:- Sir Arthur W. Currie  
Dr. J.A. Jarry  
Dr. C.F. Martin  
Dr. J. Roddick Byers  
Dr. A. Grant Fleming  
Dr. Helen R.Y. Reid  
Dr. E.J.C. Kennedy  
Dr. W.H. Atherton  
Mr. Lyon Cohen

The secretary notified the meeting that Mr. Michael Hirsch, Mr. Louis Colwell, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor and Dr. L.deL. Harwood had advised of their inability to be present.

The minutes of the last regular meeting of the directors held on June 24th, 1927, having been previously circulated to all members of the board were taken as read and approved.

The managing-director then presented his report:-

In presenting this report which deals chiefly with the future of the League and activities for the year 1928, I desire to review briefly the history of the organization in order to make clear our present position.

The League was publicly announced at a meeting held on March 24th, 1924. On May 31st, 1924, after several visits to Montreal, I made application for the position of managing director, providing that my understanding of the objectives of the League, as set forth in my application, were approximately correct. These objectives were:- Educational Propaganda; Surveys; Demonstrations; Bureau of Information; Co-Ordination; all leading to the development of the local Health Department. The first six months were to be given to a general study of conditions and to developing details of the plan of work.

Further it was stated - "It is probable that it will take several years to get definitely under way and to secure the sympathy of the whole community. The budget available would need to be approximately \$100,000, per year, for unless this work is done on a large scale, it will have no wide-spread effect. I do not believe there is any likelihood of permanent results unless the League is prepared to carry on for a number of years, but appreciate that, until a later date, they can hardly commit themselves to a prolonged heavy expenditure but a five-year programme should be a minimum".

Under date of June 25th, 1924, I was advised that "your name was accepted as the first choice for the appointment of Manager or Director of the project, and I have written to Lord Atholstan informing him of this selection." The letter further stated:- "In fact, the plan as I conceive it from your own estimates demands a very large budget. I do not think Lord Atholstan quite appreciates the extent to which you propose to carry on this work, and for that reason, it would be invaluable to us to have some detailed statement from you with the individual budgets attached, so that we can fully explain the nature of the work."

On July 4th, 1924, I forwarded a tentative annual budget under the headings of Administration, Health Information, Health Education, Health Surveys, Public Health Nursing, Demonstration Health Centres, and, under each heading, gave some details and explanations. This budget totalled \$99,940.00.

Under date of August 2nd, 1924, Sir Arthur Currie wrote me:- "I therefore confirm the decision of the committee, in the matter of your appointment on the terms of your application, and, at the same time, assure you that the general plan of work, as outlined in your letters of application has the approval of the League, which body left it to the Committee you met to arrange these matters."

On August 20th, 1924, I received from Lord Atholstan a personal guarantee of my salary for a five-year period. I reported for duty on September 15th and opened our office on October 15th, 1924. There was, therefore, no question in my mind that I was to direct, for a five-year period at least, a voluntary health organization with an annual budget of \$100,000.00.

I include this in my report because it is the reason for my being here at all and it is the explanation for the plan of work followed. I need hardly say, leaving out the personal question as to whether or not one would have had anything to do with it, that if we had known how uncertain and limited the financial resources were to be, the plans recommended would have been made accordingly. I believe, in view of the fact that we have received only half the amount of money expected, and also that the work was seriously