

There was no occasion for me to speak of the necessity of economy — the veries tyro in civic affairs will admit that without question — but I think many here will agree with me that cutting down one's expenditure is not always real economy, for we may postpone some very necessary work and cut down our expenses only to pass on to some future administration the need of greater expenditure through the delay.

On all sides we hear the demand to cut down our huge salary list — stop the waste in the city, dismiss the unnecessarily large staffs. That is all very good. But let me ask who in any given department at the City Hall will point out the clerks whose services are to be dispensed with? Will it be the head of the department — some of the heads of our departments have been appointed through influence — do you ask such a man to overlook the power of that influence and cut off the dead wood, for you must not forget that the influence that placed the incompetent must necessarily have been greater than that which placed the man properly qualified? Do you think that power will still lift its head to protect that incompetent, and would it not be more than human to expect any man to dig his own grave, as it were? You have no warranty at all for the belief that cutting down the staff, reducing the salary list at haphazard, without a proper study by qualified experts, will effect a saving for the city.

Reorganization and scientific systematizing by experts is the first logical step towards economy in such a large administration as the City of Montreal. I venture to say there is not a successful business man of any standing in this community but has found it necessary within the last twenty five years to reorganize and systematize his business, more particularly the accounting departments.

And even if we imagine our salary list cut in two (which is a rather wild computation) and which will mean a reduction of two million dollars, our revenue would still be inadequate to the city's needs, and requires readjustment.

It is true some of our high officials are paid salaries out of all proportion to the salaries paid high officials of large and important American cities for similar services; it is true our governing body, our Mayor, Controllers and Aldermen are a luxury when we consider the remuneration paid for similar services in these large American cities. The salary of the Mayor of Montreal is \$10,000, that of Detroit \$5,000, Buffalo \$5,000, San Francisco \$6,000, Milwaukee \$4,000. Our aldermen are paid \$1,500 per annum, with an additional \$1,000 to the Chairman of the Legislation Committee; Detroit and Cleveland pay their aldermen \$1,200 per annum; Baltimore, Buffalo and Milwaukee \$1,000, Cincinnati \$1,150. Amongst the large cities with which comparisons were drawn, only Washington and New Orleans have Commissioners. Washington's Board of Commissioners is appointed, and is the sole governing body of that city; they receive \$5,000 a year. New Orleans' Board of Commissioners is elective, and there is no other governing body, their salaries are \$6,000 per annum, with the presiding officer's salary of \$10,000, and I may mention this official is practically the city's manager.

Our governing body altogether costs the city of Montreal \$71,000 per annum in salaries alone — we will say nothing of how expensive they are in other ways. Detroit's expenses for similar services is \$55,000; Cleveland's \$43,000, St. Louis \$62,200, Pittsburgh's \$68,500, Buffalo's \$41,000 and Boston