

The Municipality is henceforth at the disposal of the public, and all taxpayers are treated with unfailing courtesy. Before each meeting delegations of citizens are heard, and are not obliged to return to the City Hall several times to advance their claims or present petitions, which were formerly side-tracked in the offices.

Thanks to the system of order and regularity introduced in the civic administration, there is no more room in the Corporation for employees who made use of their position to appropriate the City's funds. Severe examples were made in several instances, and the guilty officials were dismissed and obliged to flee the country to escape the rigors of the law.

We may add, much-needed repairs have been executed in the civic palace that its interior aspect has been changed. The cleanliness which now reigns is not the least of the change brought about for the benefit of the entire community.

The City Council can now rely upon the work of good employees. In putting an end to these abuses numerous financial losses and losses of time, which were finally paid for by the public, have been done away with. Taxpayers cannot fail to appreciate all those ameliorations.

Claims against the City

The Finance Committee put an immediate stop to the old custom of delay by which claims for damages against the City were left unexamined, and, consequently, unsettled for years.

In the very beginning of the new administration the Chairman of the Committee inaugurated a definite system of settling old civic debts, of leaving no outstanding accounts on the City's books, and, above all, of submitting to the decisions of the Courts when the Corporation had been condemned to pay taxpayers an indemnity, the interest on which was a heavy burden to the Treasury.

From January 1, 1900, to October 1, 1901, the enormous sum of \$117,928.23 was paid out in indemnities to the citizens of Montreal. These indemnities consisted of damages of different kinds claimed from the City previous to January 1, 1900, and even before 1889. Certain claims were in abeyance when the new aldermen came into power.