

NEW CHARTER FOR MONTREAL

Below is a synopsis of the two charter proposals which will be submitted on May 16 to the electors of Montreal for their decision. Scheme A was prepared by a special commission appointed by the Provincial Government, and Scheme

B by the local members of the legislature. The essential differences between the two schemes are embodied in the first eight clauses.

Scheme A.

- 1.—Division of city into three large districts, East, West and Centre.
- 2.—Five members of council to be elected in each district.
- 3.—Total 15 members one of whom will be mayor.
- 4.—Election by Proportional Representation system of voting, no vote lost.
- 5.—Term of office four years.
- 6.—Mayor elected by council from among their number.
- 7.—Administration by the council alone as a body.
- 8.—General Manager appointed by Council within 30 days.
- 9.—Powers defined by charter, must give time to city, and has charge of all administrative actions of city under the control of the council.
- 10.—Municipal Service Commission composed of heads of departments and one representative of employees chosen by them from their number.
- 11.—The council appoints, suspends and dismisses the city clerk, city comptroller, city attorney and assessors, all the other hands of departments only upon the recommendation of the General Manager.
- 12.—Any recommendation of General Manager is adopted or rejected by the absolute majority of the council who may also make representations to General Manager.
- 13.—Mayor's salary, \$8,000.
- 14.—Councillor's salary, \$3,000.
- 15.—Salary of General Manager to be fixed by council.
- 16.—Fine for non-attendance at regular meetings \$50 and at special meetings \$20.
- 17.—Nomination by the Council of a Commission for the preparation and surveillance of public utility franchises.
- 18.—Budget prepared by General Manager on reports from Directors of Departments.
- 19.—City to spend \$25,000 a year for 5 years to purchase up-to-date books for civic library.
- 20.—Cost of paving paid by fronting proprietors, except for street intersections which is paid by the city. Repaving of streets to be borne by the city forever.
- 21.—Compulsory census every three years for school and health and other purposes.
- 22.—Council may impose bachelors' tax, except on any person paying \$10 or more in other taxes to the city.
- 23.—All contracts over \$5,000 must be approved by Council.
- 24.—Expropriations with or without demand of proprietors on recommendation of General Manager approved by absolute majority of all members of Council, price decided by the Quebec Service Commission.
- 25.—Council has no right to give instructions to departments except through General Manager.
- 26.—Mayor to vote as councillor and have casting vote in case of tie.
- 27.—General Manager to take part in Council meetings but not to vote.
- 28.—Electoral Bureau having complete charge of election matters.
- 29.—Bachelors paying tax have right to vote.
- 30.—British subjects over 21 whether proprietor, tenant or occupant or paying bachelor's tax or other tax over \$10 have right to vote.
- 31.—No members of Senate, Commons, Legislative Council or Assembly or member of Parliament, Federal or Provincial Commission eligible for council.
- 32.—Candidate for councillor must have 200 signatures for nomination. No deposit.

Scheme B.

- 1.—Division of city into 35 small wards.
- 2.—One alderman elected in each ward.
- 3.—Total 35 members.
- 4.—Election by simple plurality vote. Minorities have no representation.
- 5.—Term of office two years.
- 6.—Mayor elected by citizens.
- 7.—Administration by an Executive Committee of five members chosen from Council. Mayor not a member.
- 8.—Director of Municipal services must be appointed within thirty days by Council.
- 9.—Powers to be determined by executive committee from time to time.
- 10.—Municipal Service Commission composed of heads of departments and one representative of employees chosen by them.
- 11.—All heads of departments, except the city clerk, the comptroller, city attorney and assessors who are within the jurisdiction of the council, are appointed suspended and dismissed only upon the recommendation of the executive committee.
- 12.—Any recommendation of Executive Committee can only be rejected or amended by absolute majority of all members of council.
- 13.—Mayor's salary \$10,000.
- 14.—Councillor's salary \$1,500.
- 15.—Chairman executive committee additional \$1,500. Other members executive additional \$1,000.
- 16.—Fine for non-attendance at meetings \$10.
- 17.—Formation of Technical Commission.
- 18.—Budget prepared by executive committee on reports from directors of departments.
- 19.—Civic library remains as it is.
- 20.—Cost of paving and repaving (including intersections of streets and lanes) are placed upon the proprietors of any street at the whim of the council.
- 21.—No Provision made regarding census matters.
- 22.—Council may impose bachelor's tax without exception.
- 23.—Executive committee may award contracts up to \$5,000 without approval of council.
- 24.—Same procedure but the council fixes the price.
- 25.—All communications between council and departments must be through executive committee.
- 26.—Mayor has not vote on council, but has casting vote if there is equality of votes.
- 27.—Members of executive council are members of council and vote.
- 28.—The city clerk is in charge.
- 29.—Bachelors are taxed without right to vote or representation.
- 30.—Old law applies, bachelors have no votes unless qualified for other reasons.
- 31.—No member of the Federal or Provincial Governments or permanent Federal or Provincial Commission eligible for councillor.
- 32.—Candidate for councillor must have 50 signatures and deposit of \$500 which he forfeits unless he receives one-half as many votes as the successful candidate.
- 33.—No provision made for recall of a dishonest or careless alderman.

33.—The citizens have the right to recall dishonest or careless councillors.