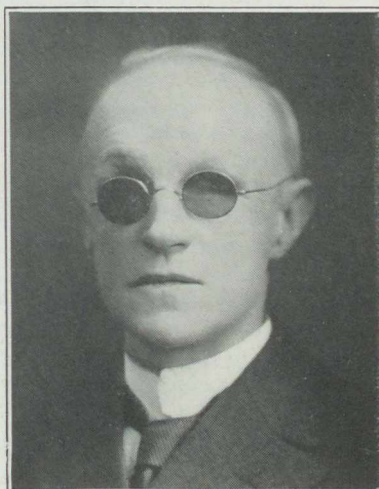


# SILVER ANNIVERSARY — 1908-1933

## FOUNDING OF THE MONTREAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

ON April 21st, 1908, Mr. Philip E. Layton invited fifteen blind men to meet at his home, where in a concise and comprehensive address he showed what was being done for the welfare of the blind in Great Britain and other countries. He urged the establishment of a Residential School and Workshops for the Blind in Montreal, and stressed the immediate necessity of forming an Association whose object should be to aid them by educational and industrial training, thereby creating employment and making their lives a much happier lot.

On the motion of Dr. A. Fisher, it was unanimously agreed that an Association be formed at the meeting to be known as The Montreal Association for the Blind, and a Board of Directors consisting of six sightless members was accordingly elected.



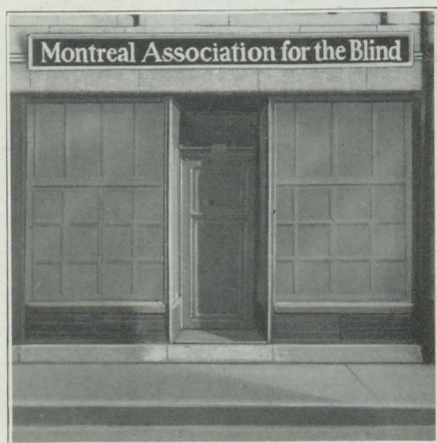
PHILIP E. LAYTON  
*The Founder:*

The first effort of this Association was to give industrial training to blind men. On December 1st, 1908 a small workshop was opened on Notre Dame Street West, and four blind men were admitted to receive instruction in the manufacturing of corn brooms. This little shop was honored by a visit from His Excellency Earl Grey on December 17th, 1908, and two months later an order from the Federal Government was received for 12 dozen brooms.

From this little workshop of two rooms on Notre Dame Street came the erection, on the beautiful grounds at Sherbrooke Street West, of a modern fireproof School in 1913, and an Industrial Building in 1914. The latter building, proving inadequate to meet the increasing demands of blind people seeking employment, was enlarged in 1926.

The factory as it now stands is considered to be one of the most modern and best equipped plants for blind workers on the continent.

The sales of products which in 1908 amounted to \$876.00, have since attained a maximum of \$75,000.



*The first workshop for Blind men in Canada — Opened 1908.*