

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The Board of Management of the Montreal Protestant House of Industry and Refuge beg to submit their Report for the first year to the annual meeting of the Governors and Subscribers.

The Board having been duly elected by the Governors of the Institution to serve until the first annual meeting, immediately proceeded to organize themselves into the following Committees:

- A Committee of Finance,
- A Committee of Poor Relief,
- A Committee for selecting a site,
- A Committee for Bye-Laws for the management of the Institution.

Two of these Committees, namely those of Finance and Poor Relief have made special reports which are inserted in the appendix. The others have also discharged their duties and reported, though the site Committee has, for reasons hereafter explained, been unable to make any final report.

From the Report of the Finance Committee it will be seen that the whole of the subscriptions up to the present time amount to \$82,829, including the handsome donation of \$1,000 by the Directors of the City and District Savings Bank, but exclusive of the value of the farm bequeathed by the late Thomas Molson, Esq., and since his decease conveyed to the Institution by the executors of his estate.

The first instalment on the subscription list amounting to \$31,504, was made payable on the first of November last. Of this sum \$28,069 has been paid to the Treasurer, leaving a balance of \$3,435 per list herewith, still due.

An amount of \$332.96 for interest and other items raises the above sum received to \$28,401.96.

The expenditure has been \$1517.01, principally disbursed by the Poor Relief Committee in maintaining the Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen.

There has also been a payment of \$15,000 for the purchase of a site which will be noticed in its proper place.

The Board regret to observe that one or two of the subscribers refuse to pay the instalment of their subscriptions on the plea, 1st, that the Governors had decided not to hold for purposes of revenue, such donations and bequests of real estate as might be made to the Institution; and 2nd, that they were not allowed the privilege of placing inmates in the proposed House of Refuge in proportion to the sums subscribed.

In regard to the latter objection the Board are of opinion that such a stipulation would in all probability lead to difficulties in the management which ought to be carefully avoided. The former is of a graver character, and strong opinions exist on both sides regarding it, but the Board are in hopes that something may yet be done to remove the difficulty.

The Board recommends that another vigorous

effort be made to increase the subscription list at an early day, as there are still a number of wealthy citizens who have not contributed anything to the funds of the Institution but who are in duty bound to do so, if they would fulfil the precepts of the gospel. The large amount required for the purchase of the site and the erection of buildings necessary for the purposes of the Institution, will considerably reduce the amount to be invested for its yearly maintenance.

The Board have great satisfaction in referring to the Report of the Poor Relief Committee which will be found appended to this report, by which it will be seen that a large amount of relief has been afforded, and that the money placed at the disposal of the committee has been most judiciously and usefully expended.

The Site Committee, after much anxious deliberation and investigation, came to the conclusion that none of the sites contemplated in the west within the range of a mile outside of the Toll Gate, which the committee examined or had under offer, would answer for the establishment required for the Country, the difficulty in most cases being the want of a sufficient supply of water, and as it was absolutely necessary that the buildings required for the Night Refuge, Soup Kitchen, Board Room, Secretary's and other offices that must be located within the city, should be ready for the ensuing winter, the Board turned their attention to that object.

The difficulty in this department was to find a lot sufficiently large in a central locality such as might suit for the Board room and the sundry other offices. After a long search they concluded to purchase the large vacant lot, corner of Dorchester and Bleury Streets from Mr. John Donegan, for the sum of three thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds. This lot is in the most central situation that could be found suitable for such a purpose; and although the lot is considerably larger than is required for present purposes, it was thought better to purchase the whole of it with the view of selling such portion as may not be required rather than allow it to fall into such hands as might put up buildings that would possibly become a nuisance to the Institution. The Board have ordered plans to be prepared immediately, and they are expected to be ready soon with an estimate of the cost, and when ready will be submitted to the governors for their approval.

In regard to the country site, your Board have not yet come to any definite conclusion. They would however remind the meeting that they are in possession of the farm left them by the late Mr. Molson, and that although it is at a greater distance than was originally contemplated, it is an excellent farm, and is easy of access by the City Railroad and omnibusses, besides having the indispensable requisite which the others have not, a good supply of water; and when it is considered that the inmates of the country establishment will be of a more permanent character than the others, the distance is much less objectionable.