

damages for having carried out such improvements.

And in future improvements of this nature should be carried out at the cost of the proprietors benefited. If, however, a public improvement should be considered necessary, in the general interest of the city, the ratepayers should be afforded an opportunity of deciding whether they require such improvement, and any expenditure necessitating a loan should be submitted and approved by the majority in number and value of the ratepayers under a special by law, and a special tax should be imposed for its repayment.

ALL CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES

should be thoroughly sifted before being paid. In my opinion, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been unnecessarily expended in this connection.

It is worth considering whether it would not be desirable to

RENT MARKETS BY PUBLIC COMPETITION

until such time as may be deemed expedient to abolish all except one central market.

PAYMENT OF ALDERMEN

The question has been frequently discussed, both in the Council and outside of it, as to whether the aldermen should be paid for their services. I have to acknowledge that one result of my experience has been to change my mind on this subject. I am now decidedly of the opinion that not only should the aldermen be remunerated for their services, but that they should be relieved as far as possible of attending to purely administrative duties, and it is worthy of serious consideration whether it would not be in the best interests of the city to appoint paid commissioners to superintend all details in connection with the civic administration. These commissioners might have associated with them the heads of departments, with the Mayor as chairman, who might form an Advisory Board, and submit all matters to the City Council, which would act as a legislative body, but their recommendations should be subject to a veto of a two-thirds vote of the Council. The commissioners might be three in number, one of whom could be elected by the ratepayers generally, one by the real estate owners, and one by a two-thirds vote of the City Council, said commissioners to be under the control of the City Council, and subject to dismissal for cause, by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

MT. ROYAL PARK AND CITY SQUARES.

Although attempts have been made to encroach upon Mount Royal Park, I am glad to say that the City Council has had the good sense to oppose any such encroachment. Montreal is renowned for, and justly proud of, her parks, and no trespass should be permitted on either inner parks or squares.

The question of annexation of the

SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES

is one which will have to be faced in the near future.

The necessity for this has been urged by my predecessors, and as time goes on this necessity becomes greater, and likewise the difficulties in connection therewith. In anticipation of annexation, which, for obvious reasons, is regarded as a foregone conclusion, the municipalities are incurring large debts for improvements. When annexation takes place, a fair redistribution of ward representation might be in order.

During the past year, strong efforts were made to induce the Federal Government to carry out the necessary works in connection with

HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS,

but, although several conferences were held, nothing but promises and disputes over plans have resulted. I sincerely hope that the City Council and the city of Montreal generally will make such representations to the Federal authorities as will induce them to make the necessary improvements in the national port of the Dominion without delay.

Although I was most anxious that the important work of the consolidation and

REVISION OF THE CITY CHARTER

should be accomplished during my term of office, owing to various causes—including the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, it was found impossible to complete the work. A fair commencement has, however, been made, and it is now well under way, and will, no doubt, be completed during the present year, in good time for the next meeting of the Legislature. It is both undesirable and undignified that the city of Montreal should have to go to Quebec year after year for amendments to her charter. Under certain restrictions she should be accorded full power to regulate and govern her own affairs.

Gentlemen,—In taking leave of the Council, of which I have been a member for the past five years, as Alderman and Mayor, I desire to express my hearty appreciation of the kindness and courtesy extended to me on all occasions by my confreres. It affords me very great pleasure to thank the civic officials for the readiness with which they have afforded me all the assistance in their power in the discharge of my duties, which they have done with a skill and an intelligence and good-will that entitle them to my grateful acknowledgments. I also desire once more to express my deep gratitude to the citizens generally for the trust reposed in me, and for the never-failing kindness displayed towards me by all classes in this city.

THE BANK OF COMMERCE AT THE KLONDIKE.

The Government has completed arrangements with the Bank of Commerce to open up a branch at Dawson City. An appointment is reported to have been made of the officer who will take charge of the Dawson branch. Mr. Wills, of Orangeville, a brother of Dr. Wills, who spent three seasons in the Yukon,