

DRAFT OF STATEMENT TO SURVEY COMMITTEE

As chairman of the Montreal Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League, I desire to state our reasons for calling you together.

It must be appreciated by every Montreal citizen who gives even a moment's thought to the facts, that our health conditions are far from satisfactory. We know that, compared with those of other cities of similar size, the death rates from preventable diseases in Montreal are definitely higher.

From its inception, the General Health League has sought, by various means, to bring this fact home to the citizens of Montreal. This was done because it was believed that the first step towards securing better health conditions was the awakening of public interest in the matter.

To what extent we have succeeded is a matter of question, but we believe that our efforts and those of other health organizations along this line have met with a considerable degree of success. Because of this, and because of the Typhoid Fever epidemic last year, we believe that the time is opportune to pass from generalities to something specific.

In our opinion, what is now needed in Montreal is a Health Survey. By that we mean a survey so conducted that its report will clearly present to Montreal citizens the health conditions of Montreal as they exist. To make the situation clear, a comparison will be made with other cities of comparable size. Finally, the Survey will recommend just what should be done to raise Montreal to the health level of other cities, and will show what this means in the way of expenditure of money, the employment of personnel, etc.

Briefly, we would have a constructive health programme for the city of Montreal, with all necessary detail to make it clear and with reasons for the various recommendations.

The General Health League believes that such a Health Survey should