

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL SANITARY ASSOCIATION,

PRESENTED TO A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, HELD IN THE MECHANICS' HALL, MARCH 28, 1867, WM. WORKMAN ESQ., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

[*Reprinted from the Montreal Herald.*]

The following is the report read by Dr. P. P. Carpenter, Secretary of the Sanitary Association, at the Annual Meeting on Thursday evening:—

At the close of a course of free lectures on the Laws of Social and Personal Health, delivered in this Hall in March, 1866, T. S. Brown, Esq., in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved that it was desirable to form a voluntary Sanitary Association. Nineteen gentlemen gave in their names as members; but the organization was suspended to await the action of the City Council.

At a meeting convened by public advertisement, April 17th, T. S. Brown, Esq., in the Chair, the "Montreal Sanitary Association" was inaugurated; and its objects stated to be "generally, to collect and diffuse information, and take action on all matters relating to the Public Health; and specially, to assist in improving the abodes of the poorer classes."

Arrangements were immediately made for a series of lectures and addresses in every Ward in the city. District Committees were organized after each; and Rules of Health, in French and English, which had been prepared with great care, were everywhere distributed. The District Committees visited their own neighbourhoods, and reported thereon to the Central Council, which met nightly at the Mechanics' Institution. The Council, after again visiting and reporting whenever it was judged necessary, presented their facts and suggestions to the City Health Officers; and published daily in the papers such particulars as were calculated to rouse all those who were not hardened against every appeal, to abate the nuisances of which the citizens justly complained. Full accounts of the nuisances complained of, and complete reports of their condition in many parts of the city, especially in St. Ann's Ward, are entered in the minutes of the Council. The work went on, with great harmony and enthusiasm, till the period of the Fenian raid. This, and the drill meetings consequent upon it, broke up most of the district committees; and the fear of cholera having died away, the Council meetings were held three times weekly, then weekly, then fortnightly, and (during the winter) monthly. During the year, 70 Council meetings have been held, and about 25 public lectures given, besides the very numerous meetings of the district committees, and the house to house visitation. All the work has been gratuitous, and has been performed principally

by men working hard in their regular occupations.

During the same period, there were three separate organizations appointed by the City Council. The original Health Committee recommended Dr. Girdwood as Officer of Health; but, the Finance Committee objecting, the Council refused their sanction, and appointed a Board of Health under the city By-laws, consisting of the Police and Health Committees and eleven medical men, two of whom declined to act, and one was afterwards appointed Health Officer.

To this body was entrusted the work of cleansing a city confessedly one of the most filthy on the continent, of which the mortality was frightfully in excess of the country districts round; and of warding off cholera, then reasonably feared, and on former occasions terrific in its ravages. Each member possessed (under the By-laws) almost dictatorial power, for the energetic exercise of which he was responsible to the citizens who had elected him.

In fulfilment of their grave and most important duties, these gentlemen held four meetings, all of which were attended by the Mayor. Messrs. Rolland, Isaacson, Leduc, Bernard, Brown, and Drs. McDonnell, Leprohon, Hings-ton and Lemire attended thrice. Messrs. Rodden and Devlin, Gorrie, Stevenson, Cassidy, and Drs. D'Orsonnais and Craik attended twice. Messrs. Mercier and Lanctot, and Drs. Beaubien and Fenwick attended once; M. Labelle, not once.

The principal business of the Board related to the purchase of places of deposit for town refuse; the remainder of the minutes are as follows, cholera being then considered imminent.

Meeting 1. (April 3.) Eight policemen were detailed to enforce cleansing, and eighteen called for from the council for two months. Carried, by 15 to 6 votes, that two medical officers be appointed till January 1st: Drs. Rottot and Girdwood being recommended, at \$1,600 each. [The Council only confirmed this appointment till July 15th.]

Meeting 2. (April 13.) Recommended, that a By-law be at once framed for the guidance and payment of licensed public scavengers; that the Board divide into two sub-committees for health and police; that disinfectants be purchased, and that the two health officers be instructed to prepare a report.

Meeting 3. (April 20.) The butchers petitioned, and the health officers reported, against