

building will have a concrete plunge bath about 100 feet long by 25 feet wide with shower baths and other modern improvements. Owing to lack of funds, however, no heating apparatus can be installed and consequently, for the present at least, the bath will be available only during the summer months. This building, however, let us hope, is the first step towards the ultimate accomplishment of wide designs for furnishing the working people of Montreal with what in most progressive English cities is regarded not as a luxury but as a necessity.

But these details regarding the duties, organization and defects of the Health Department must have grown wearisome to you, as I have presented very little which was not previously known to you all. If it were possible for you to name a sub-committee of your Society who could spare the time and go carefully over the various activities of the local board, to examine the different services carried on and to suggest ways of improvement, I would gladly lay before my committee at the City Hall, the result of your labours. I cannot, however, bring this paper to a close without frankly presenting before you some of the disheartening features of the situation, not with a view of causing you to conclude that nothing can be done and that therefore, the subject is not worthy of further consideration, but for the purpose of calling up the reinforcements, in order that, the full strength of the opposition being apparent, we may organize in sufficient strength to carry through, in spite of it all, desired reforms to a successful finish.

In the first place let me point out to you that, as the result of ten long years of reckless extravagance the city to-day is compelled to exercise the strictest economy in all departments. We are in the position of a householder who has mortgaged his property so that it demands half of the revenue to meet the annual interest charges. This is most plainly shown by the following figures. In 1889, the total revenue of the city was \$2,222,000, and the net debt was about \$13,000,000. It required \$811,000 for interest and school tax, leaving about \$1,410,000 or 63½ per cent. of our entire revenue available for administrative purposes. By 1898, the total revenue had increased to \$3,078,000, but the net debt was over \$26,000,000. The amount needed to pay the interest and school tax was \$1,400,000, the amount available for administrative purposes was \$1,576,000 or just about 50 per cent. of the amount collected. Thus although the city in 10 years increased 30 per cent. in population and 15 per cent. in territory, the amount available for the care thereof increased but 11 per cent. during the same time. Think of it! In 1898 we had but \$165,000 more to expend on the current administration than we had in 1889, though the citizens contributed \$800,000 more in the former than the latter year. As a result the appropriations voted each civic department for annual needs are re-