

## Civic Lighting for Montreal

The unsatisfactory relations between the City of Montreal and the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. (formerly the Royal Electric Co.) have led to a very strained position. When the Company faced competition some years ago, it seemed to yield and hauled down the price from \$120 per arc lamp to \$65.00 — but a clause was slipped into the contract permitting the Company to change the style of lamp, and the arc lamps were quickly replaced by enclosed alternating arc lamps and the streets became gloomy and badly lighted, as everyone, stranger and citizen who travelled, noticed. The termination of the contract brings up the question of improvement, and an agitation has been started in favour of a civic lighting plant.

Naturally, Messrs. Ross and Holgate, C. E., who, (along with City Engineer Fellowes), installed the combined garbage incineration and lighting plant, at Westmount, Que., were called in and have drawn up a report which is given below. It is well to know that the estimated cost per arc lamp in Westmount, for 120 lamps, was \$75; and that the cost the first year was \$66.50, while this year the actual cost, for 180 lamps, has been \$65, or eight dollars per lamp less than was estimated; further that the report for the year's working, when issued, will show a profit, after charging fully for operating, depreciation, interest and sinking fund, of \$19,000 dollars! This justifies the offer of Messrs. Ross and Holgate to pay the city of Westmount \$10,000 a year for five years, and run the plant for the City; their profit this year would have been \$9,000.

It should be understood that the cost of producing electricity is paid for to the Health Department by paying the nett value of the garbage, which is about the cost per year.

On the other hand, the Light, Heat and Power Co. have water-power, which is considered as costing one-half that of coal; and they buy power from the Shawinigan Co., delivered in Montreal, at \$14 per h. p. So they ought to be able to cut considerably below the cost at Westmount.

The following is a brief summary of Messrs. Ross and Holgate's proposal for Montreal:

The total garbage collected in 1905, as shown by the Health Department, was 84,486 tons, being a daily average of 230 tons; the maximum daily power available from this is 19,800 kilowatt hours, of which 7,330 would furnish the 2,200 arc lamps, leaving 12,470, or 1,333 h. p., and which could be used for pumping or sold.

The conclusions are: that the City has sufficient garbage to light the City, and also to pump most of the water used by the citizens; that the clinkers would be available for roads; and that the collection of garbage could be simplified, and its destruction made inoffensive and sanitary.

A plan has been prepared for the Western Division only. Here the total garbage in 1905 was 29,025, and the daily average 80 tons. This would give 8,640 kilowatt hours, which would supply 733 arc lamps, and 500 h. p. besides.

The cost of installation is estimated as follows:

Destructor Plant . . . . .	\$102,960
Electric Plant . . . . .	73,260
Street Equipment . . . . .	108,850
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	\$285,070

The operating costs of the destructor, including interest, sinking fund, depreciation and repairs, are \$24,276 per year, from which \$13,324 is deducted for the present incinerator, which would be replaced. This would give the cost for 330 h. p. for 24 hours at \$33.

Similar operating costs of the electric plant would be \$40,867, so that the total operating costs of the combined plants would be \$57,819, assuming that the value of the extra h. p. is \$30 per year; this means that the 733 arc lamps would cost the City \$57.18 each.

The result of a plebiscite taken last month shows that the ratepayers are in favour of spending two million dollars on a civic electric plant.

## The Cement Merger's Defence

The Cement Merger is not being allowed to drop out of sight, but the circular letter, sent out by the Union of Canadian Municipalities, is being taken up, and generally warmly endorsed by municipalities all over the Dominion.

Mayor Oliver, Toronto, promised that not only will Toronto back up the action of the Union with moral support, but also with pecuniary assistance, if necessary.

Meantime, it remains to be seen how far the Merger with still increase the prices, and that is practically dormant while the winter lasts. The Combine in England is on the spot, and is prepared to enter this field, if prices are forced up here.

The Merger has not been idle on its side, but has issued a series of advertisements in the leading papers, in which short sermons have been preached to the readers, showing the perfect innocence of the Merger, which aims only at giving the consumers the lower prices which are possible by amalgamation.

These advertisements are double-barreled, as they not only show the readers the point of view of the merger, but effectively shut off any possible criticism on the part of the paper. So the readers of the papers in which these advertisements appear, are only allowed to know one side of the question.

## Not Municipal Failures

The City of Winnipeg, Man., was without light, power and cars for several days, owing to an accident in the water power plant of the Street Railway Co., which is the electrical monopoly of the city. The tremendous inconvenience of such a thing can hardly be imagined, especially as electricity has been so largely depended on for light. It was understood that the Company has a stand-by or reserve plant to be operated by steam in case of accident; but it did not meet the "long-felt want".

The City of Hamilton, Ont., has been a sufferer also from a similar cause, namely the failure of the Cataract Power Co. to overcome an ice-jam. This is the more remarkable, as in a recent article in a journal which stands for the companies as against municipal ownership, the statement was made that this Company had such perfect arrangements that no ice-jam could affect it. Of course, this was an argument to aid in keeping back the contract with the Hydro-Electric Commission.

It is well to remember that these accidents did not happen to municipally owned plants, but to those of companies which have been fighting to keep the citizens from adopting a publicly owned power system.