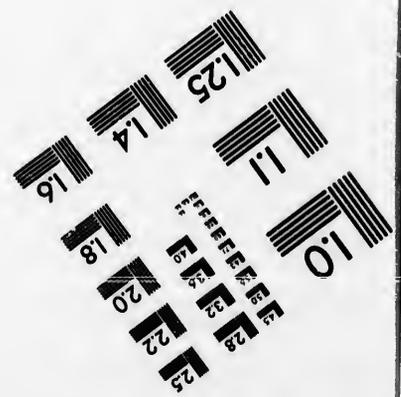
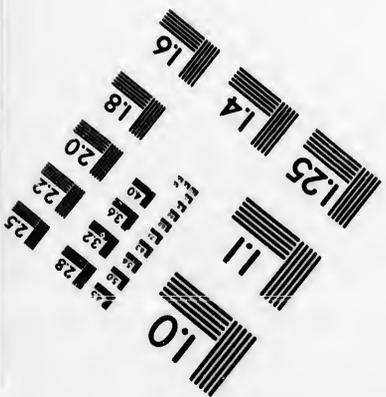
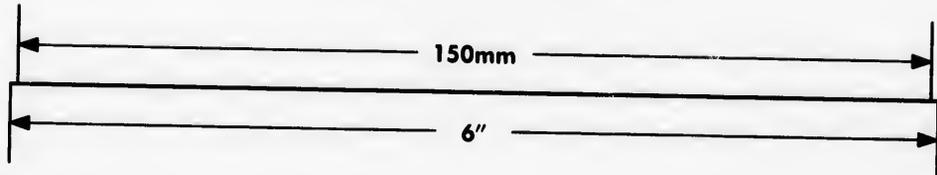
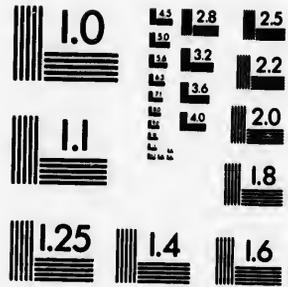
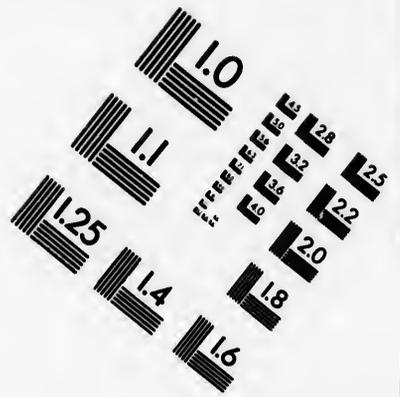
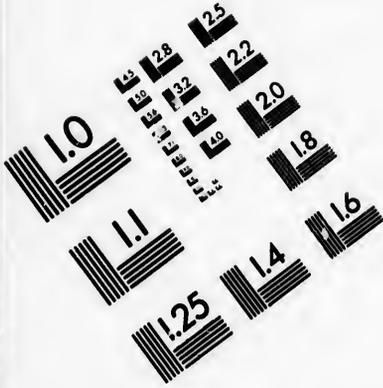


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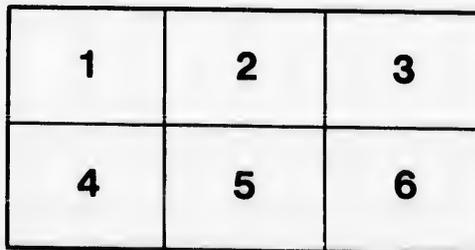
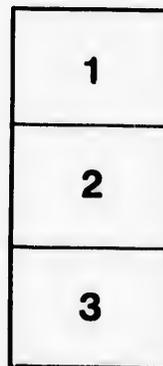
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4

TO THE
CITY OF MONTREAL.

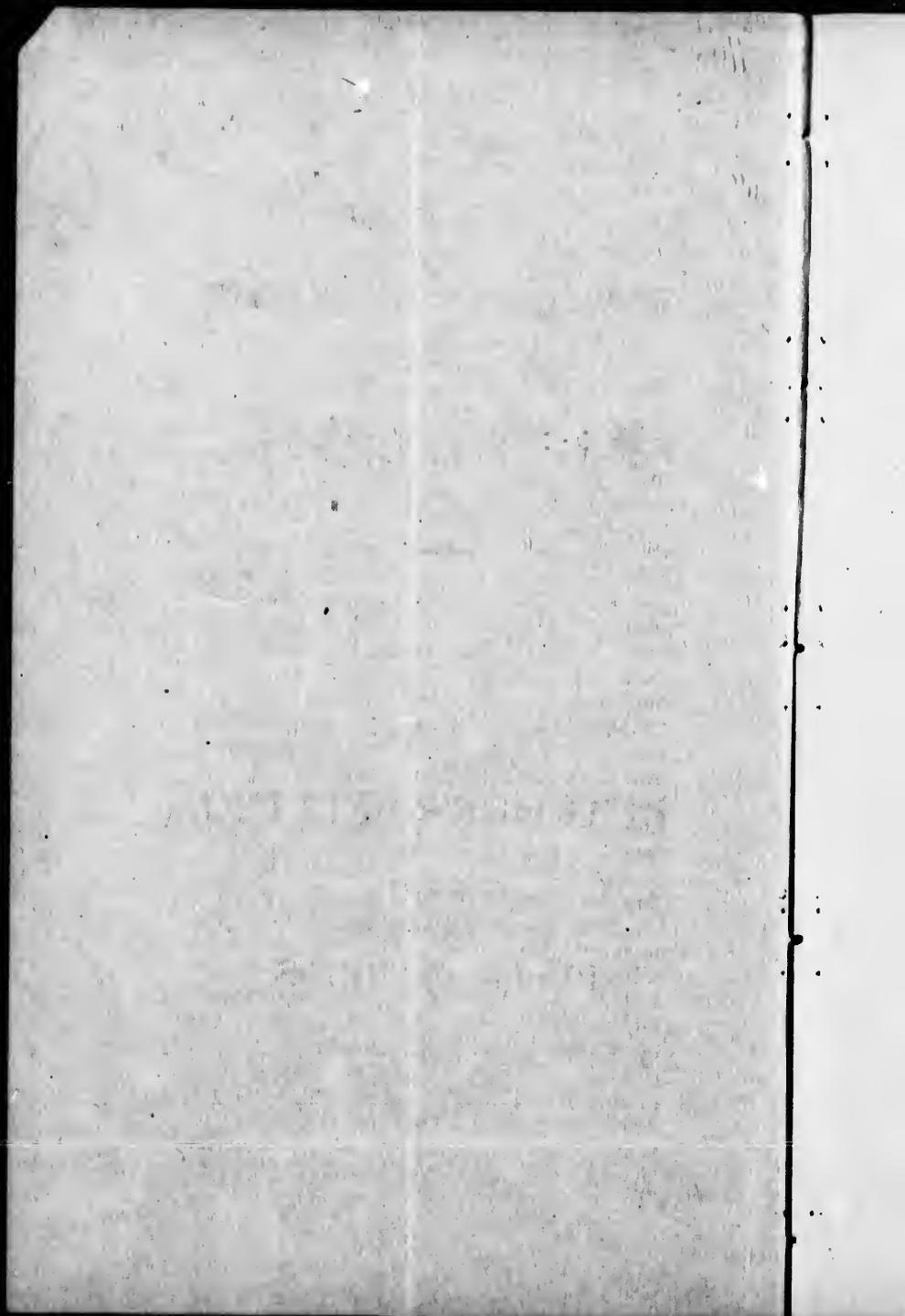


THE CASE
OF THE
BUTCHERS SELLING
IN THE
PUBLIC MARKETS.

TO THE
CITY OF MONTREAL.



THE CASE
OF THE
BUTCHERS SELLING
IN THE
PUBLIC MARKETS.



THE CASE
OF THE
BUTCHERS SELLING IN THE PUBLIC MARKETS.

To the City of Montreal :

The butchers doing business in the public markets of this city would respectfully present their case to the favorable consideration of the City of Montreal, and would urge:—

That the time has arrived when the policy of the city should be defined between the public markets and private butchers' stalls, in order that the butchers may, with some degree of certainty, continue their business in the public markets. Owing to the conflict of interests between them and those who sell in private stalls, the butchers have been for a long time past losing money, and if the conflict continue it will be impossible for the former to continue in business and insolvency will be certain, and a large class of citizens who have contributed in common with other classes to the welfare of the city will be reduced to ruin.

The butchers, in presenting their case to the city, have every regard to their own self-respect, as citizens. They only desire a fair and candid hearing from their fellow-citizens, placed by the suffrages of the rate-payers in the Municipal Government of this city, simply requesting that if their branch of industry can be placed on a sound, equitable footing, based on principles by which a fair profit may be made, both by the city and them, they are certain that in the

future, as in the past, they will continue to be a source of revenue to the city, and, at the same time, be enabled to support themselves.

It is claimed that the public markets return to the city a large revenue, we believe nine per cent. per annum, on the capital expended on them; and it cannot be denied that at the present tax on private butchers' stalls, they are also a source of profit to the city, producing a revenue of twenty thousand eight hundred dollars, being a tax of two hundred dollars on one hundred and four shops. This is a gain of the amount of the tax and this simply because they happened to be occupied by butchers, and not by drapers, grocers, or any other industry. They contribute this sum, and the only charge on the city is the small cost of inspection, a portion of the time of the Inspector, whose salary is six hundred dollars. These stalls were first taxed at five hundred dollars, which was subsequently reduced to the present amount. It has always been claimed by the Corporation that these taxes were placed in the interest of the city to protect the capital it had expended in the public markets. What has the result been? It has brought ruin on the butchers who remained in the public markets, contributing to the large return that has been obtained on this expenditure in them.

Such is now the position of matters that the city cannot continue to reap the large profits it has done from both sources of revenue, the public markets and the private stalls.

In presenting our case, we would particularly desire to be understood as not

making an attack on the butchers in the private stalls. Such is not our intention. We are simply laying the facts of the case before the city.

The present unsatisfactory position has been the result of the unsettled policy of the city, which is neither one of markets nor of freedom in selling in private stalls.

The City Government has not been consistent in its policy. It first laid down the doctrine of public markets, spent considerable sums of money on their construction and prohibited the sale of meat, except within them; but when the growth of the city (especially westward) necessitated further market accommodations, such were not afforded, but instead, shops were allowed to be opened between the purchaser and the seller in the markets, and thus the business of the butchers in the markets was forestalled and fell into the hands of the butchers in the private stalls. Thus, while the city on the one hand wished to derive a large revenue from the lease of the Markets, it was, at the same time, by its changing policy, depriving its own tenants of the means of paying their rent and gaining a livelihood. It should also be remembered that about the time the tax on private butchers' stalls was reduced from five hundred to two hundred dollars, the rent of the stalls in the markets was increased.

The market system was the system first established in Montreal by the city, the system which we have been endeavouring to carry out, and the result is unsatisfactory and disastrous for ourselves.

Your petitioners would respectfully remind the city that some years ago, when Alderman Grenier was the Chairman of the Market Committee the Corporation

reiterated the policy that the business of selling meat should be done in the markets and not in shops; and many of the butchers remained in the markets, thus agreeing with the views of the city, whose tenants they were, and where do they find themselves to-day? They are less advantageously placed than those who, abandoning the markets, have been selling in the shops:

The alternative is this—and it is not suggested as a threat to the Corporation, but simply as a necessity to our existence—if some satisfactory solution cannot be arrived at, that the butchers now in the markets will leave them to become shopkeepers, sellers of meat, and then ask the city why those who sell one of the necessities of life should be taxed more than those who sell another; why they should be specially taxed, while the baker or grocer is not.

Your petitioners have done all in their power to meet the views of the city. When their rent was raised, and, at the same time, the taxes on their opponents lowered, they paid their rent. They have paid bonuses to the city for their right of selling in their stalls when each market was first opened. They have continued to be tenants of the city in the markets as long as they could without becoming insolvent.

Another increased source of revenue would be derived by the city from the *habitants* who do not now appear at the markets as they used to do. They now sell to the private butchers' shops. Were there none such they would go to the markets to effect a sale of their produce, and would gladly pay a charge to the

city for the right of selling, and the consumer would purchase cheaper than at the shops of the butchers, who have necessarily to charge a profit on his purchase from them, and which increases the cost of the articles. A petition from the *habitants* in proof of this will shortly be presented to the city. If there were no private butchers' stalls, the scales at the markets would return a larger revenue. In the present divided state of the market question, comparatively little is done in weighing, while a considerable return would be effected if the sale of meat were confined to the markets.

Let us look at the question from the consumers' point of view. It is obvious that the open competition of the markets is most desirable from many points of view, so desirable, in fact, that it requires no argument, while the large choice it affords the purchaser can be attained in no other way.

The inspection of meat in public markets is attained by the officer of the Corporation in a fraction of the time employed in examining private shops, and each butcher in a market, in a proper business-like competitive sense, is a meat inspector and a health officer.

On sanitary grounds the market is preferable to the private stall, which is generally a dwelling house altered. The market is constructed for the purpose of selling and storing meat. It is more open, loftier, better ventilated; its ice house accommodation is better; it is more adapted to meet sanitary requirements, more easily purified by water, and much less likely to produce or foster disease.

While on this subject, we would respectfully desire to contradict any idea that butchers do not wish to follow sanitary rules or that they have objections to inspection. We are citizens, and wish to co-operate in every way with the growing desire for sanitary reform.

Let us view the question from the standpoint of the proprietor of the premises at present leased for the the purpose of private butchers' stalls. The meat and other things at present sold in private butchers stalls are among the prime necessities of life, and proprietors, as a rule, have been enabled to obtain a large rent generally by changing a building previously leased as a dwelling house into a shop. In the west end of the city, for example, this increased rent has been taken advantage of by the proprietor without consideration as to whether it will be an eventual advantage to the property or not, and the result, we venture to say, will prove that the occupation by private butchers' shops will be an ultimate injury to the property itself and to the neighborhood. These remarks will bear with particular weight in certain quarters of the city. Let proprietors give a little consideration to the question, and we are of opinion they will agree with us. What would be said to a shop in the middle of one of our first class terraces. Let the question be asked of any one if he would like to live next a butcher's shop, and the answer will be in the negative, or if the proximity of such a shop is desirable to many businesses not more useful than ours, but which have to be conducted in another way, and the answer will be similar.

We do not by these remarks wish to say anything derogatory to our occupation, but

certain occupations have to be conducted in certain ways, and this is accepted by those who carry on these businesses. We respect our own calling, but we say that it can, from every point of view, be most advantageously done in a market.

To the thoughtful it is evident that many, almost all parts of the city, are undergoing changes in the destination to which buildings can be applied and we contend that when settlement as to uses has been arrived at by time and circumstances, many proprietors will regret the leasing of premises as butchers' shops.

A remedy was supposed to be afforded the butchers in the markets by the By-Law providing that no butcher's shop should be opened within three hundred yards of any market. This distance the Corporation has since desired to increase to five hundred yards. While at first sight it may appear to the public to afford protection to the butchers in the markets, a little reflection will show that it affords none, and for this reason :

The purchasers who deal in particular markets do not, as a rule, live between the market at which they may deal and the next market. That might have been the original state of things, but such is not the fact now, and the purchaser, to reach the market, has to pass the private butchers' shops, let us suppose five hundred yards from the market ; for any protection to the market, he might as well have passed the shops ten yards from the latter. The protection to be derived from the By-law, to have any force, would presuppose the fact that the markets were so situated to each other in positions that there was a circle with a radius of five hundred yards round each market from the inhabitants of which circle the Butchers in the markets at

the centre could derive a subsistence and between the circles a space within which the private shops could be established, and from the inhabitants of which space, outside and between the circles round the markets, the keepers of these shops could also derive a subsistence. It is apparent that these are not the facts. People do not now live in the neighborhood of several of the markets where the largest display of produce is to be seen. The very valuable west end business is now tapped by the private shops between the residence of the consumer and the market. And again, supposing the radius of the circle of protection to be five hundred yards and outside such radius the private stall, the consumer who lives at the central point of the radius is as near the opposing private stall as the market, and thus the protection is only of two hundred and fifty yards,—not five hundred yards. Thus the five hundred yards by-law affords no protection.

The markets at present in use are profitable to the city, and the erection of others where required would be equally so. For example: a market is much needed in the western part of the city. Tastily designed buildings could be made ornaments to any locality, and be much less objectionable than a number of private shops, in different places; while by the use of non-absorbent and proper materials in its construction no possible objection could arise.

There are one hundred and four butchers who sell in private stalls; of this number, at least, half are prepared to return to the markets. A certain number of these could be accommodated in the existing markets, the stalls of which are not now all occupied; and by the erection of other markets in localities where they may be required, and returning to the

system of selling only in markets, the question can be satisfactorily solved in a manner that will be profitable to the city, just to the butchers in the markets, who are the tenants of the city, and to whom they have the right to look for justice ; more in the interest of the proprietors, more sanitary and in every way more advantageous to the general public.

EDWARD CHARTERS,
E. LAVIGNE,
J. B. BOURASSA,
ROBERT BICKERDIKE,
L. BAYARD,
P. H. ROWLAND,

} *Committee.*

MONTREAL, 10th May, 1879.



