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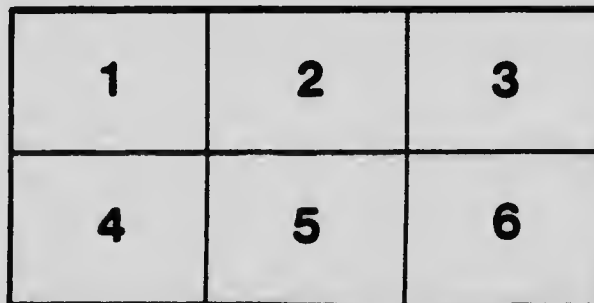
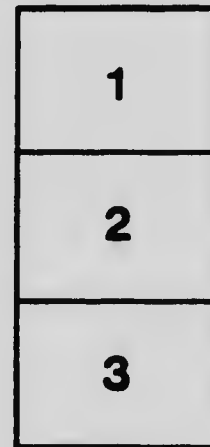
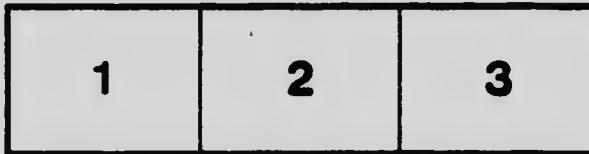
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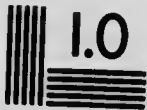
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THE
Municipal Affairs
OF
MONTREAL.

1900-1901

Two Years of
Sound Administration

This Pamphlet is Presented to
Ratepayers by
Alderman H. LAPORTE.
Read His Letter . . . Page 81

Translated from the French Language.

JS 1761

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The Purpose of this Pamphlet

We owe the following explanation to those of our readers who may ask why this pamphlet has been published.

The electoral campaign for a complete renewal of the Montreal City Council is about to commence in a vigorous manner. Numerous meetings will be held to which taxpayers will be invited to hear the civic administration either praised or adversely criticised, to become acquainted with the programmes of new candidates, or finally to hear the conduct of the present representatives in the City Council explained.

It has been thought that it would be useful and in the interests of the community to publish a few notes to enlighten the electors and to let them see exactly in what manner the City has been governed for the past two years. By a careful perusal of these pages the taxpayers will see for themselves the work accomplished by their representatives elected in February, 1900. They will be in a position to unerringly distinguish those who have done their duty as worthy representatives from those who have been neglectful of their duties, or who have not perseveringly safeguarded the interests of the City.

Partiality and animosity find no place in this little publication, and weakness keeps them company. As some months shall elapse before the annual reports of the different departments will be ready for distribution, we deem the present an auspicious moment for the publication of a brief history of the administration of the present Council and its Committees. A recapitulation of the votes upon important matters discussed in Council, after careful study in Committee, is appended.

Everyone may judge for himself if the Alderman he has been instrumental in electing has done his duty, as promised two years ago. With this pamphlet before them electors should reflect and ask themselves if they want an honest and upright administration of the City's affairs, or if they prefer to send to the City Hall men who will attend to their private interests regardless of the general welfare of our great City.

We have no desire to facilitate the election, as Alderman, of

any particular person next February. We merely request that our fellow citizens send honest men to Council, men of known ability and sufficient disinterestedness to fulfil in an honourable manner their duties as representatives of the people. We do not expect an ideal administration—that cannot be realized in our present financial plight—but we do desire that our City be governed in a practical manner, and that our Aldermen give us, in all departments, the very best service we can reasonably expect for the money annually paid into the City Treasury.

During the last two years marked progress has been made in all departments, and credit should be given to the reformers, the leaders of the present Council, to those who, despite all the obstacles placed in their path by some of their colleagues, have successfully, honestly and ably managed the affairs of the City. It is generally admitted that they cannot be accused of a dishonest act, nor reproached with having practiced the arts of extortion or boodling which dishonoured certain members of past Councils. The leaders of the Council for the last two years have had an eye solely to the interests of the City. They have conscientiously endeavoured to give us a good, sound administration. If they have not succeeded in accomplishing all they desired we must remember the difficulties they experienced even in the heart of the Council itself, of the opposition against which they had frequently to contend, and of all the dilatory measures employed to retard the adoption of the projects submitted by them.

Some of the Aldermen elected in February, 1900, who aimed at reorganization, were members of previous Councils, and had ample opportunity to discover the causes of the bad administration in the government of a large City like Montreal. If their suggestions were not carried out in previous years it is because they were in the minority. But the electors realized that it was necessary to send such men to Council, and they elected a majority of men of that calibre. These Aldermen were then enabled to work in the public interest, and it is with much pleasure we observe that, notwithstanding the efforts of an ill-disposed minority, they have succeeded in making giant strides towards the uplifting of the civic government.

Nothing durable can be accomplished in a short space of time. Much still remains to be done to bring to a successful completion the reforms already instituted. It now remains with the electors to give those same men and their friends the opportunity of terminating the work so well begun.

Everyone is responsible for his acts

In a large city, such as Montreal, as well as in a small municipality, the electors have but themselves to blame if affairs are badly looked after. They themselves send to Council the representation of the Corporation, and they themselves are directly responsible for the choice they make. If, on election day, taxpayers forget their dignity and their duty as citizens, and allow themselves to be induced, by guilty influences, to support a candidate who has nothing by his private interests in view, they commit a fault which may have the disastrous effect of compromising the administration of the City, and affecting the whole Corporation.

The electors should be deeply impressed with the responsibility that is theirs in depositing their ballots in the ballot-box. They alone are to blame if afterwards the administration is not what it should be, if the finances are in a deplorable condition, if the streets are dilapidated, if the fire department is badly organized, if the hygiene department is indifferent, if the police force is unsatisfactory, etc.

Whoever is free is responsible for his acts. Before voting, taxpayers are perfectly free to choose whom they please. Neither the speeches heard at election meetings nor the solicitation of neighbours or agents constitute an excuse for prostituting their liberty. The vote should be cast with a due sense of their responsibility as citizens. At the moment of voting electors should feel as independent as jurymen, who, before the tribunal of justice, are about to pronounce upon the innocence or guilt of a prisoner.

Make Enquiries before Voting

In laying before our fellow citizens a statement of the work accomplished by Council since February, 1900, we give them an opportunity of posting themselves regarding the work of the Aldermen, and also of ascertaining what has been the attitude of their representatives on the important matters which they have been called upon to decide. Electors may easily find out how each particular representative voted. If their representative

voted for the introduction of good administration in the Municipality they should re-elect him. If their Alderman has been recreant to this duty then, without hesitation or weakness, the honour of sitting in the City Council should be denied him. For new candidates, who have never been in public life before, careful enquiries should be made concerning their honesty and capacity before placing the interests of the City in their hands.

No Weakness

When we reflect upon the dilapidated condition of our streets, when we consider that previous Councils neglected the proper administration of the finances and increased the debt without giving us an equivalent in permanent work, we believe that it is necessary to appeal to the electors to adopt stringent measures.

Let there be no weakness on election day. Lay aside all considerations of personal friendship, allow no one to control your vote. Judge the candidate conscientiously, consult not your personal interest, think but of the City's welfare. Give to Montreal suitable representation in order that our fair City may be worthy to bear the title of Metropolis of Canada.

How should our choice be guided ?

By opening this pamphlet electors will be correctly informed. We have greatly diminished the work of electors by introducing order and method in the statement of the work accomplished during the last two years. We have studied each of the departments at the City Hall, and we shall state wherein progress has been made. We will place before the electors the work, *in toto*, accomplished by the present cliques in the Council and in each Committee where the Reform Party has been in the majority.

And when these statements shall have been drawn up, we shall indicate the important projects which have come before

Council, the contracts which have been awarded, the administrative measures which were brought forward, and we shall show how your representatives voted.

Finally, in the latter part we shall point out the improvements unanimously demanded by our fellow citizens, the means to be adopted to obtain the same, and the manner of choosing worthy men to send to Council to provide a businesslike, progressive and economical administration of the City's affairs.

We sincerely hope that, after all this frank and sincere advice, the choice of the citizens will be a happy one. In any case, we shall have done our duty in cautioning the public against evil suggestions which may be met with.

The truth is to be found in these pages, and no contradiction is feared either as to the facts or figures.

Our Municipal Finances

At the initial meeting of the present Finance Committee the Chairman, Alderman Laporte, delivered a speech defining his platform, which contained a financial reorganization scheme.

We cite the principal excerpts in order to demonstrate that the Aldermen elected in 1900 were firmly resolved to break with the financial heresies of the past.

Said Alderman Laporte: "I shall do nothing without your advice, gentlemen, and you will be consulted on all questions we may have to study during the course of our work.

"We should strive to give satisfaction to the other Committees, which compose the municipal administration, by an attentive examination, free from sectionalism, of all requests that we may receive. We ought to endeavour, when questions affecting the welfare of the City at large arise, to reach as favourable a solution as the means at our disposal will permit."

After looking into all the modifications which appeared urgent to him, Mr. Laporte, continuing his speech, said:—

"Not a penny of the City's revenue must be lost. For this reason I ask that particular attention be given to the collection of taxes, property taxes, water rates, the various licenses, everything, in fact, that is a source of revenue to the City.

"We will have to examine the citizens' claims against the City, and take measures to prevent a recurrence of past mistakes, so that no money may be lost through fissures that can be closed up."

This program was followed to the letter, regularly, methodically, during the numerous meetings held by the Finance Committee, not only every Friday, but every time it was found necessary to meet to continue work that had been commenced to give satisfaction to taxpayers, or to discuss or grant appropriations for the various committees. 125 meetings were held up to date, which represents a considerable amount of work, especially if we take into consideration the fact that the members of this Committee are all business men at the head of important commercial enterprises.

General Improvement in the Department

Before inaugurating the proposed reforms the Finance Committee decided, in the first place, to surround itself with capable, industrious and honest employees. Success in this connection was achieved without dismissing, *en bloc*, the civic servants with bad records on account of intemperance or irregularity in the discharge of their duties, or by reason of the numerous debts for which their salaries were frequently seized. The Committee, though acting with becoming firmness, preferred to act in a paternal manner towards their employees, and bring them to a sense of their duty by a series of notifications and warnings, which have had gratifying results. The usurers, who were to be found in the corridors and offices of the City Hall, finding municipal officers easy prey, were banished without mercy. Employees were advised to pay their debts, and were notified that no more seizures would be tolerated.

Irregularities in attendance were made impossible by close supervision, especially as to the hours of arrival and departure. All these changes created powerful enemies, and at the beginning gave rise to discontent and recrimination from interested parties, and even from the public, which was misled as to the intentions of the leaders of the Council. But to-day the Finance Department is well officered, and in less than two years all abuses have been abolished. No large company or mercantile house in the City possesses a more industrious or attentive staff than that of the Finance Department. It sufficed simply to make the civic employees understand that at last the governors of the City Hall were determined to establish order throughout the whole municipal service, and that no abuses should be tolerated.

Everyone was a gainer by these changes, inasmuch as industrious habits were acquired. Employees draw their salaries in full to-day, their families are satisfied, and several have thanked the Aldermen for the excellent and effective measures enforced. The public is better treated at the City Hall, is received with politeness, complaints are duly reported to the chiefs of the various departments or committees, as the case requires, and intemperance has disappeared, and in every office it is a pleasure to see the improvement in the service and the regularity which enables a smaller number of officials to give a more efficient service and accomplish more than in the past.

The Municipality is henceforth at the disposal of the public, and all taxpayers are treated with unfailing courtesy. Before each meeting delegations of citizens are heard, and are not obliged to return to the City Hall several times to advance their claims or present petitions, which were formerly side-tracked in the offices.

Thanks to the system of order and regularity introduced in the civic administration, there is no more room in the Corporation for employees who made use of their position to appropriate the City's funds. Severe examples were made in several instances, and the guilty officials were dismissed and obliged to flee the country to escape the rigors of the law.

We may add, much-needed repairs have been executed in the civic palace that its interior aspect has been changed. The cleanliness which now reigns is not the least of the change brought about for the benefit of the entire community.

The City Council can now rely upon the work of good employees. In putting an end to these abuses numerous financial losses and losses of time, which were finally paid for by the public, have been done away with. Taxpayers cannot fail to appreciate all those ameliorations.

Claims against the City

The Finance Committee put an immediate stop to the old custom of delay by which claims for damages against the City were left unexamined, and, consequently, unsettled for years.

In the very beginning of the new administration the Chairman of the Committee inaugurated a definite system of settling old civic debts, of leaving no outstanding accounts on the City's books, and, above all, of submitting to the decisions of the Courts when the Corporation had been condemned to pay taxpayers an indemnity, the interest on which was a heavy burden to the Treasury.

From January 1, 1900, to October 1, 1901, the enormous sum of \$117,928.23 was paid out in indemnities to the citizens of Montreal. These indemnities consisted of damages of different kinds claimed from the City previous to January 1, 1900, and even before 1889. Certain claims were in abeyance when the new aldermen came into power.

Large amounts have been paid from the revenues of 1900 and 1901 for indemnities dating as far back as 1894, 1895 and 1896. No effort had been made by previous committees to settle these claims and give satisfaction to the citizens who were impatiently waiting for their money. Legal costs and interest were accumulating to the detriment of the civic treasury.

The Finance Committee succeeded in finding funds to pay these claims of previous years. The sum of \$117,928.23 deducted from resources of the two years comprising the present term, materially diminished the amount at the disposal of the Committee for administration, but the Council deemed it the wisest course to make an end of the back accounts, and settle with those whose claims for damages had been sustained by the Courts.

As far as indemnities for the last two years are concerned, the Finance Committee carried out the policy of settling them immediately in the most rapid manner. The City Attorneys were very active in defending the interest of the Corporation whenever a claim for damages was filed. The City experts were set to work without delay, and by the rapidity of their methods the City saved the law costs which were formerly paid out of the City Treasury.

At present all the City's outstanding accounts have been settled, with the exception of those which are now before the Courts, and which will be carefully looked after. Nothing is now pending, and the aldermen who will compose the Finance Committee in February, 1902, will have a clean sheet to commence with. This is unprecedented in the history of the Corporation, and should be noted by the citizens so that the credit may be given to the reorganizers of our municipal administration.

Public Health

The Finance Committee never failed to find the necessary funds to protect the health of our families from an invasion of the smallpox or an epidemic of fever. We remember how rapidly the smallpox developed in 1885, when the City was sadly ravaged. In 1901 we were visited by the scourge again, but, at the

request of the Hygiene Committee, the Finance Committee immediately opened an appropriation, which enabled the health authorities to take the most vigorous and effective precautions to prevent infection by locating every case, by enforcing strict quarantine, and by looking after the Civic Hospital, and in this manner the City escaped the danger, owing to the foresight of our representatives in Council, who displayed such solicitude for the well-being of our fellow citizens.

Regular Collection of Taxes

In a properly governed city the taxpayer's first duty is to pay his taxes so that the city's entire resources may be utilized for the commonweal. He who neglects to pay his taxes injures his neighbour and at length himself, as improvements can only be executed with the city's available resources. Whenever the collection of taxes is carelessly done the citizens suffer, the administrative machine does not work properly, the lack of money is keenly felt for certain projects, and the debt must be increased to obtain the necessary funds.

Alderman Laporte, with the advice and support of his colleagues on the Finance Committee, placed his well-known business ability at the City's service. The City's affairs were supervised as are the affairs of a bank or large commercial establishment, where every customer must pay his account or honour his paper, so in our municipality each taxpayer, big or little, had to pay his assessments, taxes or license, as the case might be.

Increased activity became apparent in the Treasury Department, resulting, no doubt, from the industry displayed by the employees. Method and regularity replaced the defective system for the collection of taxes, and on account of the abolition of favours formerly granted the municipal revenue was, in 1900, increased to the extent of \$152,000.00, figures which may be verified by referring to the reports of the City Treasurer and the City Comptroller. This is a striking proof of what can be accomplished by a sound administration.

The amount received for various licenses totalled \$101,009.80

for the year 1899. This was increased to \$121,348.00 in 1900, and up to October 1 1901, the increase over the previous year is \$12,000.00. On the entire revenue of the City the increase up to October 1, 1901, is \$131,000.00 over the first nine months of the previous year with a fair prospect of a further increase from that date to the end of the year.

No more Exemption from Taxation

Under the present administration all taxpayers without exception have had to pay their taxes. We might mention that the laundries, and more especially the Chinese laundries, were compelled to settle their accounts with the Treasury, and that the Finance Committee succeeded in collecting from this source over \$10,000.00 which previous Committees had been unable to collect.

The Stock Yards Company owed the City an account which remained on the books for over eleven years. The Finance convened the directors of the Company, and in a series of meetings this important matter was definitely and amicably settled. An account for \$8,000.00, for water supplied to the Stock Yards Company, was paid into the City Treasury, and to-day a regular system, with water meters, has been established, and is in operation to the great advantage of the Corporation.

This is not the only matter that has been definitely disposed of. Everything that was pending, old matters of more or less importance, received the careful attention of the Finance Committee, and particularly of its president. As we will see when we consider the part played by the City Attorneys, a large number of other accounts were finally adjusted. The constant care of the Finance Committee was to see that all sums due to the City were collected by the Treasury department, and they are entitled to great credit for the arduous labour necessitated by this undertaking.

Important Improvements in Book-keeping

Among the improvements introduced into the Treasury department we will cite a few of the first importance to the proper working of the department.

In the past the Treasurer alone signed bank cheques. This system gave a single official great responsibility and a latitude, which, at a given moment might become dangerous. The Finance Committee remedied this state of things by ordering that in future all cheques be signed by three officials, the Treasurer, the Cashier and the Comptroller. By this change we are completely safeguarded against the possibility of any irregularities. If we consider that, at the period when the interest is paid on the civic debt, cheques amounting to nearly \$400,000,00 bore the signature of but one man, it will be easy to understand the full importance of the excellent measure adopted by the Committee and ratified by Council.

The Treasurer and the Comptroller, whose duties are very important, had no immediate assistants. The result was that in case of absence or illness the regular working of the Treasurer's and Comptroller's departments was seriously impaired. This want was filled by appointing Messrs. Arnoldi and Pelletier assistants to Messrs. Robb and Dufresne respectively, without adding a penny to the City's salary list. All civic employees are now paid by cheques for the amount of their salaries. This makes it possible to control the seizures of salary, renders the transfer of salaries impossible, and facilitates the introduction of order and regularity into all the departments in the Corporation.

Corporation Printing

The City's interest was safeguarded by the Finance Committee, which practiced economy even in minute details. The contract for printing, required for the various departments at the City Hall, expired. A sub-committee was appointed to examine the tenders which had been publicly advertised for. Notwithstanding the fact that there was a heavy increase in the amount

of printing required, owing to the natural growth in the Corporation work, and the formation of a ninth committee as well as the large number of new By-Laws adopted, still the City in one year succeeded in saving \$6,000.00 on the whole printing contract.

The Sub-Committee on Claims

The most remarkable work we have to mention in connection with the Finance Committee is that performed by the sub-committee re claims against the City. Formerly, every time a citizen suffered damages from any accident whatsoever, either from flooding, fracture of a limb, etc., the claims for damages were not immediately dealt with. Actions were instituted in the Courts, and the delay in coming to a settlement was very prejudicial to citizens. To-day, thanks to the watchfulness of this sub-committee, all claims are duly considered, and the settlement of damages is accomplished with the assistance of the City Attorneys. Legal costs are avoided by amicable arrangement, and the claimants are happy and pleased to receive immediately the indemnity awarded.

We may incidentally mention the case of the flooding resulting from the bursting of the water main last winter in Bleury street. All claims for damages were immediately settled without any legal costs. The money saved in this way totals a very considerable amount when we consider that there were over one hundred claims, some of them for very large amounts.

The City's Real Estate

The Finance Committee gave particular attention to the real estate and other property belonging to the Corporation. Correct plans were prepared, the titles were overhauled and examined, and at present we know exactly how much property belongs to the City. In this manner we succeeded in finding certain properties which had been overlooked, and the ownership of which might have been contested if order had not been restored. A distinct and separate record was made of each property, contain-

ing all necessary information. The City intends to dispose of some of its real estate when the right time comes. In the meanwhile, however, the localities in which these properties are situated have improved, which will have the effect of making the sale more advantageous to the City.

Montreal's Excellent Financial Standing

Since the advent to power of the reorganizers of the municipal administration, the financial market has evinced the greatest confidence in our bonds, which bring par in the American market, where they are considered excellent investments.

The Finance Committee left no stone unturned to obtain for our fair City that good name which can only be acquired abroad by a sound administration at home, by establishing order and exercising the strictest economy in the various municipal departments.

Loans awarded in secret, without tender, arranged between friends, are a thing of the past. Everything is done above board by publicly advertising for tenders from financiers in the domestic and foreign money markets.

It is desirable to cite an example and institute a comparison to show our readers in a few words the esteem in which the City of Montreal is held in the various money markets.

In 1899 the last Finance Committee negotiated a loan of \$3,000,000.00 bearing 3 1-2 per cent. interest. At the time this loan was floated the financial condition of the different American and European money markets was most favourable. There was no question of the South African war, and English consols, the price of which is fixed by the courts, were at 107 3-8 in the month of June. Notwithstanding this, the Montreal loan was negotiated at 100 and a slight fraction, the transaction bringing \$525.00 in all over par.

This year, in the month of April, the City of Montreal called for tenders for a loan of \$1,500,000.00 bearing 3 1-2 per cent., as in the year 1899. British consols had been constantly declining since the Transvaal war, and all the European and American markets were affected by the financial crisis, which had increased the cost of money everywhere.

The highest offer that the City received was 97, which the Corporation rightly refused to accept. But if we compare the depreciation in British consols, and their fall of 13 3-16 points since 1899, it is a significant fact that the decline in the value of our bonds was only 3 points during the same time, which demonstrates most conclusively the esteem in which our bonds are held. The price of 97 offered this year for a loan of \$1,500,000.00 was comparatively vastly superior to that of 100 and a fraction paid in 1899 under the old civic administration. If we take into consideration the general decrease in the most stable stocks we shall see that the City of Montreal enjoys a high reputation in the financial world.

While awaiting an improvement in the money market the City will take advantage of the opportunity to make temporary loans until at least par can be obtained for the City's debentures. We may state, for the satisfaction of our fellow citizens, that the financial standing of the City of Montreal was never better. This happy state of affairs is due to the order which reigns in the administration, to the stop put to the squandering of public funds, and, in a word, to the strict economy which is practiced in all the departments of the City Hall.

During 1901 the Finance Committee administered municipal affairs with \$50,000.00 less than during 1900

The municipal budget is considered, and the appropriations are voted, at the end of each year, and are based upon the revenue of the preceding year. In the month of December, 1900, the Finance Committee regulated the expenditure for the year 1901, based, of course, upon the revenue of the year 1899. The City, under the old administration, collected during 1899 \$50,000.00 less than in 1898. Consequently, there was \$50,000.00 less available for 1901 than for 1900, and the Finance Committee had to reduce the appropriations to that extent. Notwithstanding this diminution, the different departments did not suffer more than in later years owing to the economical measures adopted in all departments.

Besides the City was deprived of the power of borrowing for the year 1901, which makes a general diminution on the ordinary budget and the loan of \$350,000.00 compared with 1900.

This decrease is directly traceable to the old financial administration of the City, and we will briefly explain the causes. In 1899 the assessors had irregularly increased the valuation of real estate to the extent of \$5,000,000.00, which was largely due to the assessment on machinery. In 1900 the assessments were reduced to their real value, thus making the grand total several millions less than in 1899, which had the effect of prohibiting the City from borrowing for the year 1901. Section 344 of the Charter grants permission to effect a loan of 10 per cent. on the increase in value of real estate, but as numerous reductions had to be made in 1900 the increase on property, though constant, did not exceed the valuation of 1899, which had been inflated by over-valuation of machinery never before included in the real estate valuations. These faults of a previous administration weighed heavily on the present administration, and it required all the prudence and economy displayed to drag the City out of the mire.

Excellent Prospects for 1902

Owing to the order established in regulating the collection of taxes the anxious moments are a thing of the past for our Corporation. For the next appropriations the City will have a surplus of about \$190,000.00. Moreover, the value of real estate constantly growing will give us power to borrow over \$200,000.00 for 1902. The Finance Committee will, therefore, have at its disposal a surplus of about \$400,000.00 without additional taxation, and will be in a position to distribute to the various departments, according to the urgency of their needs, this large amount, which will be used solely for general improvements in the public interest. Our City is extending. Sewers will be constructed or continued, sidewalks will be repaired, roads will be macadamized or asphalted, water service pipes will be laid wherever necessary, fire protection will be increased, the police, parks and ferries, hygiene and incineration departments will be carefully looked after by the Council. In a word, nothing will be left undone next year to give satisfaction to the taxpayers as far as possible with the \$400,000.00 which the Finance Committee will have at its disposal over and above the amount available in 1901.

Who Deserves Credit for the Improvements ?

After all these explanations that are given to enlighten the taxpayers, and remind them of all that has been done by the Finance Committee, we may ask who deserves the credit for the municipal reorganization ? Is it not the men who were elected in February, 1900 ? Is it not to the men whom the taxpayers sent to represent them at the City Hall ? To those who had a well-defined reform program, and who, faithful to the end, carried out that program with all the energy and devotion which has animated their every act since they have been engaged in administering the affairs of the City ?

The group of Aldermen, who, in the face of strong opposition, introduced order in our administration, and who put a stop to the pernicious and irregular methods of the past, are well worthy of the confidence reposed in them by their fellow citizens. We should consider ourselves fortunate that such men, whose private affairs are important, are willing to devote once more a portion of their valuable time to the management of public affairs. Those men and their friends should be returned to Council as our representatives. They are the men who should receive our hearty and undivided support at the approaching municipal elections. As they had the courage to leave the track followed by previous Councils we should show the necessary energy to refuse our support to those who would lose no time in bringing back the regime of boodling, favouritism and the toll-gate.

A large city, like Montreal, should have a Council composed entirely of men of unimpeachable honesty and recognized ability who would conduct the affairs of the Corporation in a progressive manner, and effect many much-needed improvements.

Important Statistics

In order to enable our readers to thoroughly understand, by figures taken from official sources, the difference between a good and a bad financial administration, we place before them the following statement, showing for a space of thirty years the increase in the civic debt, and indicating the periods of increase or decrease, regulating the proportion between the revenue and the debt, and between the interest paid out and the annual revenue.

TABLE No. I.

Year	Net Debt without sinking Fund.	Total Value of Taxable Property.	Proportion between the Net Debt and the Property Valuation.	Debt per Capita.	Annual Revenue.	Sum required to pay the Interest on the Debt.	Proportion between the Interest and the Revenue.	Period
1870	\$ 5,019,037	\$ 43,202,240.	11.6	\$ 47.56	\$ 805,656.	\$ 306,161.	38. %	1870-1875 Water Works, Parks and Markets.
1875	9,043,820	79,253,565.	11.4	71.52	1,325,761.	497,410.	37.4 "	
1880	10,192,530	64,625,359.	15.8	67.75	1,514,104.	560,589.	37 "	1880-1888 Period of Economy.
1885	10,195,424	74,276,184.	13.7	57.20	1,763,137.	519,966.	29.4 "	
1886	10,297,449	77,937,858.	13.2	55.83	1,908,859.	514,872.	26.9 "	
1887	10,803,750	83,836,847.	12.8	56.24	1,948,393.	540,187.	27.7 "	
1888	11,270,101	89,634,093.	12.6	56.86	2,095,411.	507,154.	24.2 "	1888
1889	13,095,886	95,913,927	13.6	64.07	2,222,097.	576,218.	25.9 "	1889-1890 Expatriations and Road Work.
1890	14,497,551	101,979,939	14.2	68.78	2,240,931.	606,897.	27.1 "	
1891	16,609,477	107,247,980	15.4	76.66	2,440,076.	680,988.	27.9 "	1891-1894 Expatriations and Road Work.
1892	18,177,551	113,463,195	16.0	82.34	2,456,953.	738,009.	30 "	
1893	19,986,611	130,834,241	15.3	88.92	2,651,155.	803,843.	30.3 "	
1894	25,314,507	135,268,765	17.2	99.56	2,743,335	934,911.	34 "	
1895	25,046,341	137,872,695	18.1	104.78	2,757,690.	996,844.	36.1 "	1895
1896	25,081,303	139,969,345	17.9	103.00	2,868,061.	995,727.	34.7 "	1896-1897 Halt.
1897	25,102,447	140,821,945	17.8	101.15	2,921,925.	989,036.	33.8 "	
1898	25,856,653	142,223,500	18.2	102.27	3,078,836.	1,013,581.	32.9 "	1898-1901 Decrease.
1899	26,113,419	149,248,485	17.5	101.41	3,004,728.	1,005,367.	33.4 "	
1900	26,627,857	148,095,292	17.9	101.37	3,157,614.	1,019,847.	32.3 "	
1901	*27,000,000	*150,000,000	*18. %	*100.00	*3,350,000.	*1,025,000.	*31.5 "	

*Estimated.

The Debt

By studying tableau No. 1 it will be quite easy to note the growing increase in the municipal debt and observe the years during which it grew at such an alarming rate.

From 1870 to 1875 the debt grew from five millions to nine millions as the result of improvements to the Water Works and Markets and Sewerage system.

From 1875 to 1888 the Corporation, under the burden of its heavy debt, did not carry out any large improvements. The proportion between the debt and the revenue diminished as well as the proportion between the interest paid out and the annual resources. With the coming into force of the Abbott Charter, and the appointment of Mr. Prefontaine to the Chairmanship of the Road Committee an era of enormous expenditure for expropriations and road work was begun. The debt was almost doubled in seven years, being increased from thirteen millions to twenty-five millions.

In 1895 the Quebec Legislature placed certain restrictions upon the City's borrowing power, and compelled the unwilling civic administration to halt in their spendthrift career. In 1896-97 there was a slowing up. The debt, which had reached the sum of \$104.87 per capita, gradually diminished to \$101.05.

Since 1898 our financial position has been vastly improved. The value of real estate has increased from 142 to 150 millions, and the proportionate diminution in the debt makes it \$100 per capita. If the policy of prudent economy, followed by the Council for the last two years, continues for a few years more, the financial standing of Montreal will become what it was in 1888, when the interest due on the debt was barely equal to one-fourth of the revenue, and the per capita proportion was \$56.80.

Expenses and Revenue

If we glance over the statement of statistics and the expenses and revenues of Montreal, we shall easily see whether or not the administrators, who preceded the reform aldermen, managed the Corporation finances in a businesslike manner. It is worthy of note that before 1888 the expenses never exceeded the revenue.

1899	33.4	Decrease.
1900	32.3	
1901	*31.5	
1,000,000.		
1,019,847.		
*1,025,000.		
9,002,120.		
3,157,614.		
*3,350,000.		
101.37		
*100.00		
17.9		
*18.5		
148,045,202		
*150,000,000		
26,627,857		
*27,000,000		
1900		
1901		

TABLE No. 2.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.	REMARKS.
1888	\$2,095,411	\$1,849,176	\$ 246,235		} Period of Development.
1889	2,222,097	2,119,993	102,103		
1890	2,240,930	2,385,112		\$ 144,181	
1891	2,440,076	2,506,816		66,739	
1892	2,458,952	2,663,377		\$204,425	} Period of Extravagant Expenditure.
1893	2,651,155	2,640,471	10,638		
1894	2,743,335	2,803,083		64,747	
1895	2,757,660	3,441,837		684,176	
1896 (1)	2,866,061	2,865,641	420		
1897	2,921,925	2,839,449	\$2,476		} Period of 'Forced Economy.
1898	3,078,839	2,865,960	212,878		
1899 (2)	3,004,728	2,967,503	37,214		} Period of Voluntary Reduction in Expenditure.
1900	3,157,614	3,095,821	61,793		
1901 Est.	3,350,000	3,150,000	200,000		

(1) In 1895 the sum of \$777,839.53, which represented the total of accumulated deficits, was carried to the debt account.

(2) In 1899 a further sum of \$223,704.28, the total of old accounts for the last three years, was also added to the debt. If this sum had been deducted from the surplus during those three years there would only have been a real surplus of \$72,070.70, or an average surplus of \$24,023.57 during 1896, 1897 and 1898.

In 1888 the sum of \$246,235.00 was saved on the revenue. In 1889 the saving amounted to \$102,103.00.

With the year 1890 came a period of senseless expenditures. During that year the expenses were \$144,181.00 in excess of the receipts, and in 1891 the deficit was \$66,739.00. In 1892 the same system was continued, resulting in a deficit of \$204,425.00. There was a halt in 1893 with a surplus of \$10,638.00, but the deficit makes its reappearance the following year, when there was a shortage of \$64,747.00. In 1895 a deficit of \$684,176.00 eclipsed all previous records.

The time had come to apply the brakes, and the Provincial Legislature adopted measures to stop this reckless expenditure.

The total deficits amounted to \$777,839.53, which sum the Council of the period could not hope to pay out of the ordinary revenue, or by increased taxation. Application was made to the Legislature for permission to inscribe this amount in the debt account, and to-day we are paying interest on the sum of \$777,839.53, for which no permanent work was executed.

During the three following years apparent savings amounted to \$295,774.00 were effected, but the new Council elected in 1898, which comprised several aldermen determined to effect municipal reform, discovered that old accounts to the extent of \$223,704.29 had not been paid. This sum was also added to the debt, thus leaving a saving of \$72,070.70, or about \$24,023.57 per annum.

It may also be observed that the present administration, with reformers at its head, has not only carefully avoided overdraw- ing the appropriations voted, but has steadily increased the sur- plus of receipts up to the present year 1901.

We considered the placing of these statements before the public as indispensable, in order to explain how it happened that the Corporation was so hard pressed for funds to carry on the ad- ministration at the beginning of the year 1900. Montreal's re- venue is sufficiently large to justify the taxpayers in expecting great things. But, as we have shown, the extravagance of past years greatly increased the amount of interest, which must be paid before even urgent work can be undertaken.

Taxpayers should, therefore, reflect and ask themselves if they want a renewal of municipal extravagance, or if they prefer to elect representatives who are determined to continue a wise and economical administration of the affairs of the City of Mon- treal, to reduce the rate of interest on the debt, and to use all available funds to carry out the most urgent public improve- ments.

Reforms in General

Before taking into consideration the work performed by the various committees, we desire to say a word concerning the reforms introduced into the corporation in general.

The engaging of civic employees is now done in a manner which cannot fail to meet the approbation of the persons inter- ested in the proper management of affairs at the City Hall. At

present, no person is engaged by the Police, Finance or Hygiene Committees without undergoing an examination to prove his ability.

The present leaders of the Council did not wish it to be said that places in the Corporation were given to the highest bidder. The scandals which have been exposed in the Police Department cannot be renewed because of the examinations instituted to determine the best qualified aspirant for an appointment as constable. Whosoever passes a satisfactory examination and can give guarantee of honesty may rest assured that his turn to be appointed will come, and that his position will cost him nothing.

This system will extend to the various divisions of the Civic Administration, and in future none but worthy and capable employees will be engaged by the Corporation.

Formerly, only the protégés, friends or relations of Aldermen could hope to be appointed to a good position at the City Hall. Favour and protection have given way to merit. Who will dare deny that this reform is in the interest of the Citizens?

In the Police Department, to give but one example, the introduction of the examination system raised the moral standing of the force to such an extent, that many cities of Canada have endeavoured to follow our example, and have placed some of our men at the head of their own municipal police force.

We may also mention another excellent measure in the re-organization of the administration. For the first time the principle of promotion amongst civic officials has been established as a rule. Whenever it was possible to fill a vacancy by promotion, the Council hastened to do so. This was done in the cases of Messrs. Marien, Barlow, Biron, Janin and Lesage. Employees may confidently expect that industry and assiduity will be rewarded when they have the assurance of mounting the ladder, and that their place will not be given to some favourite.

No Politics in the City Council

Not even the opponents of the Reform Aldermen can reproach them with having introduced politics into the Civic Administration.

When the Committees were formed, when the choice of President was a live question, one third of the honours was

given to the English speaking members of the Council which is the exact proportion to which they are entitled, having regard to population. The six chairmanships awarded to French Canadians were equally divided between Liberals and Conservatives.

As far as appointing of officials is concerned, we give a few examples to show that politics played no part whatsoever.

Mr. Marien, Liberal, was appointed by a resolution moved by two Conservatives. Amongst those who opposed the motion, were three Liberals and one Conservative.

Mr. Lefebvre, Liberal, ex-president of the Laurier Club, was proposed by two Conservatives, and appointed by the support of 10 Conservatives and 8 Liberals.

Mr. Chaussé, Conservative, received 6 Liberal votes, while 8 Conservatives voted against him.

Mr. Laforest's resignation was demanded by 13 French and 10 English members.

Mr. St. Georges' resignation was accepted by 7 English members and refused by 4 English members.

3 French members and 3 English members voted against the motion to have Mr. McGibbon replaced.

Mr. Janin, Liberal, was promoted by a resolution moved by two Conservatives. Six Liberals and 16 Conservatives voted in his favour.

8 English members voted in favour of replacing Mr. Patterson, and three against.

The officials appointed to the vacant positions were all chosen without regard to their political opinions. Messrs. Marien, Barlow, Janin, Bélanger, Lefebvre, Lesage, Biron, Legault, Dubreuil, Hederson, Langevin, Leguerrier, were all placed at the head of important departments without enquiry being made as to their political stripe.

The members of the present council treated each party loyally without favouring either one. It is understood that there is a difference between municipal administration and Provincial or Federal administration, and that the taxpayers of a City like Montreal, have no desire of giving expression to their political opinions in selecting aldermen to look after the civic administration. The citizens require good managers of the City's affairs and not politicians. If the next Council is composed of men animated with the same ideas, we may be confident that these principles will be observed in the future.

The Welfare of the Workingman

Whenever an opportunity has been given to show the interest taken in promoting the welfare of the working class, the Council responded to the appeal of the reform aldermen, by discharging with alacrity, its duty towards the workingman. All contracts for public work contain a clause for the protection of the labourer, stipulating that none but citizens shall be employed. When delegations from the different trades and labour organizations appeared before the Committee they were heard with attention and special effort was always made to give satisfaction.

The improvement in the street car service was brought about chiefly for the convenience of the labouring class. When the City was in need of stone, the Council insisted that the material be taken from the Montreal quarries, in order to keep the work in the hands of taxpayers. In the contracts for boats and shoes and clothing conditions are inserted which make the "sweating system" impossible, and give citizens of Montreal the preference over strangers; besides this, the payment of the standard rate of wages is enjoined by the contracts.

No Distinction of Nationality

The new administrators chosen by the City in February, 1900, endeavoured to give justice to both nationalities. Formerly, there was continuous strife between both groups regarding the needs of the Western and Eastern Divisions, and the appointment of employees. For close upon two years the system has been changed and not a single voting division has taken place with all the English members on one side and the French on the other. As far as the employees are concerned, the adoption of the principle of examination and promotion has caused all the difficulties of the past to disappear. The rights of both nationalities have been respected with strict impartiality.

The Leasing of Privileges

Since the advent to power of the reform party, whenever the Council has been called upon to award privilege, the highest bidder has always been successful when satisfactory guarantees were produced as to the character and solvability of the bidder.

“ Home Rule ”

The reformers aimed to establish “Home Rule,” without having recourse to the Legislature at Quebec, as was done too frequently under the old regime. They maintained that every important project should be submitted to the taxpayers for ratification, and more especially in the case of loans, that no additional financial obligations should be contracted, without being authorized by public vote.

The public should dictate as to whether great undertakings are to be carried on out of the ordinary revenue, or by means of a special loan. The Aldermen who seek to provide a sound administration are ready to submit such questions to taxpayers and abide by their decision.

Is it not preferable that Montreal should retain all the privileges granted by charter, without going to the members of the Provincial Legislature, representing constituencies whose interests are oftentimes diametrically opposed to the interests of our City? Are the members of the Legislature more intimately acquainted with our needs than the electors and aldermen of Montreal? It was by appeal to Quebec in the past, that the borrowing powers were obtained which piled up the debt, at the request of certain interested persons, but against the public will.

Self-government or “Home Rule” is the best form of government that can possibly be obtained. In private life we do not go to our neighbours for advice or authorization in the direction of our own affairs; the Street Railway Company does not apply to the C. P. R. for permission to float a loan, why then should we not exercise our rights and govern ourselves without soliciting the members of the Legislature to administer local affairs?

Formerly cities had to fight for a franchise. Now that Montreal has a good charter, the rate payers should take advan-

tage of it, and avail themselves of every opportunity of voting when the advisability of negotiating loans and of increasing taxation to pay the interest and provide a sinking fund is in question.

For example, if the ratepayers desire the extension of the Bonsecours market and the abolition of level crossings, let them say so and authorize a loan. The Council is ready to carry out the undertakings. But it appears to us to be useless as well as dangerous to go to the Quebec Legislature and obtain the opinion of members from Chicoutimi, Bonaventure, etc., upon the urgency of certain improvements in Montreal.

Electors should reflect seriously upon this important question before reposing confidence in representatives who may be inclined to apply to the Legislature to increase our debt and diminish our resources without consulting the public.

There is a well-defined difference between these two systems of government. One puts a stop to the floating of loans without the consent of the people; the other permits of additions to the public debt by fulfilling a simple formality, which consists in going to Quebec to obtain borrowing power, and consequently the ability to tax the citizens of Montreal.

Between two candidates, the first of whom advocates the principle of Home Rule, and the second, that of consulting Quebec regarding the Civic Administration of Montreal, the electors should not hesitate a single instant, but should unanimously prefer the former.

THE MUNICIPAL POLICE

If there was a department in need of reform it was certainly the Police Department. The disgraceful mismanagement of past years is still fresh in the public mind. Positions were given, not to the most capable and meritorious, but to the highest bidder; the contract for the supply of clothing was awarded not to the lowest tenderer, but to the firms patronized by Aldermen without regard to price or quality of material.

The lack of order, discipline and temperance in the Force was notorious.

The committee went seriously to work, and put an end to

the disorders which had thrown discredit upon our Police Force. The recruiting by-law, which had been a dead letter with previous committees, was strictly enforced. After ascertaining that a candidate was qualified physically,—that is with respect to age, height, strength and health,—he was examined by a sub-committee in educational matters. A knowledge of both languages was insisted upon, and, after the written examination, candidates were examined orally. All candidates who passed the examinations successfully, and who produced satisfactory certificates of character, were placed on the list of future constables. From this list alone constables are chosen, and no influence outside of the department can control or even facilitate an appointment.

If it be true, as it has often been said, that before obtaining an appointment on the Police Force it was formerly necessary to pass a municipal toll-gate where toll was exacted, the toll gate no longer exists; it has been forever destroyed by the aldermen whom the rate payers sent to the City Council to reform the civic administration.

Any person well qualified to discharge the duties of a constable may undergo the examinations and rest assured that his turn will come without aldermanic influence, without the expenditure of a penny, but solely on account of his own ability.

List of Constables appointed 1900 and 1901

The names and addresses are here given of all the constables appointed by the Police Committee, under the present Council. Anybody may question these men and ascertain if they have not entered the Force without the aid of any influence whatever, and without making any disbursements to obtain their positions.

No.	Name.	Date of Appointment.	Station.	Residence.
1	Hippolite Robillard,	28 April 1900,	9,	186a Desery.
5	Joseph Limoges,	7 Oct. 1901,	12,	257 Champlain.
22	Alex. St-Germain,	1 June 1901,	8,	286 Maisonneuve.
48	Rodolphe Lemay,	31 Jan. 1901,	2,	23 St-Justin.
52	Patrick French,	14 May 1900.	2,	122 Murray.

56 Adél. Constantin,	16 June 1900,	8, 461 Seigneurs.
65 Eug. Prévost,	11 Dec. 1900,	6, 50 Quesnel.
81 Zénon Robillard,	18 June 1900,	7, 388 St. André.
84 R. J. Stewart,	3 May 1901,	4, 817 St-Dominique.
85 Joseph Ménard,	26 Jan. 1901,	2, 62 Frontenac.
91 Thos. Robinson,	14 July 1901,	3, 580 Centre.
95 Elphège Gendreau,	20 May 1901,	1, 558 Laval.
103 Richard Chalmers,	20 April 1901,	9, 5 Chateauguay.
107 Amédée Mageau,	22 Sept. 1901,	4, 59 Hotel de Ville.
110 Vital Forget,	25 Aug. 1901,	9, 6 Boucher.
115 Emile Martin,	21 Feb. 1901,	11, 345 Duluth.
121 Elie Laurin,	19 June 1901,	7, 758 Drolet.
127 Léon Sanguinet,	28 April 1900,	2, 180 St Elizabeth.
129 Roderick Diamond,	10 Jan. 1901,	6, 109 Richardson.
132 David Turner,	7 Dec. 1900,	6, 834 Chaussé.
142 Armand Rajot,	3 May 1901,	2, 89 Moreau.
156 Joseph Cousineau,	8 Oct. 1901,	3, 399 Panet.
157 Nap. Beauchamp,	26 April 1901,	11, 328 St-Hippolyte.
169 John H. Crowther,	19 Jan. 1901,	9, 672 Lagauchetière.
173 Gédéas Dépatie,	16 Oct. 1901,	3, 9 Boucher.
175 H. DeBellefeuille,	30 Oct. 1901,	5, 2189 Notre-Dame.
182 N. Grandchamp,	28 April 1900,	1, Dufferin5 Ave.
183 George Sloan,	18 June 1900,	D.O. 714 St Antoine.
190 Ovila Robillard,	10 Sept. 1901,	7, 36 Ignatius.
216 Alph. Morin,	2 July 1901,	2, 587 Délima.
220 E. Desmarteau,	10 April 1901,	5, 37 Frontenac
226 John Talbot,	7 May 1900,	7, 89 Rushbrook.
227 Moise Desjardins,	20 May 1901,	1, 222 Frontenac.
228 Henry J. Corvan,	12 Oct. 1901,	1, 132 St. Lawrence.
230 L. R. Gloyn,	30 April 1901,	7, 420 Richmond.
231 Nap. Dandenault,	23 Sept. 1900,	8, 574 Carrière.
236 Joseph Lafortune,	2 Oct. 1901,	7, 100 1/2 Montcalm.
258 Edgard Parent,	29 Jan. 1900,	13, 361 Gain.
261 Nazaire Forget,	19 Aug. 1901,	4, 105 1/2 Lusignan.
275 Wilfrid Germain,	18 June 1900,	1, 115 Plessis.
301 Orphyr Leger,	5 Mar. 1901,	1, 24a Grant.
304 Gonzague Savard,	20 April 1901,	4, 293 Rachel.
308 Arthur Piquette,	16 Feb. 1901,	12, 596 Fullum.
310 Wilfrid Choquette,	20 Dec. 1900,	1, 612 Mullin.
314 V. Lauteigne,	26 Oct. 1900,	7, 44 St. Vincent.
328 Ernest Robert,	5 Nov. 1900,	2, 241 Frontenac.
328 Eustache Judd,	28 Nov. 1900,	5, 52 Norbert.
334 Edw. Amesbury,	1 May 1901,	Central, 281 Laval.
335 John McGall,	26 June 1901,	14, 112 Lafontaine Park.

Interior Reforms

The Police Committee effected an almost complete reorganization of the Executive Bureau, by the appointment of a new chief, new inspectors, and a new drill instructor. The new officials give entire satisfaction to the Committee and to the public.

All complaints sent in by citizens are now carefully looked into, reported upon and decided either by the Chief or the Committee according to the importance of the matter. The Committee paid particular attention to the discipline of the Force, the bearing of the men and their treatment of the public. Some severe examples unfortunately were necessary, but, to-day, Montreal has a right to feel proud of its Constabulary, which has frequently merited praise for the able manner in which it has performed certain services. The same principle is followed in promotions as in appointments, where merit alone is supreme, and constables who distinguish themselves by courage and zeal in the discharge of their duty receive special rewards from the Committee. All these modifications in administration of the Police Department have resulted in increased security for citizens, providing for the protection of our streets a police force second to none in Canada or even in the United States.

HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

We have no hesitation in stating that considerable progress has been made in the administration of this important department at the City Hall. In less than two years a veritable transformation has taken place which is of incalculable benefit to our fellow citizens.

Alderman Ames, the present chairman of the Hygiene Committee, took great pains in reorganizing various branches of this department, and, with the assistance of a few well-intentioned colleagues, he succeeded in giving the City a Health Department, administered in a manner unsurpassed on the American continent.

Before the reform aldermen came into power the Hygiene Department was often the subject of severe criticism on the part

of the Daily Press on account of negligence in the administration and want of system among the employees.

The first important reform, instituted at the very outset, was the separation of the incineration and scavenging department from the Hygiene and Statistical Department. This reform enabled the Committee, with which we are now dealing, to devote its whole time to the study and solution of hygienic questions. We remember how, under the old administration, the meetings of the Committee were mostly taken up with discussions regarding the cost of hay and oats for the horses of the department, or by the endless questions concerning the employees of the incineration department. Important questions of hygiene, having no small effect upon the public health, were passed over.

To insure better service the Hygiene and Statistics Department was divided into sub-departments, each with its own sub-chief: (1), the Department of Sanitary Inspection; (2), Food Inspection; (3), Public Baths; (4), Statistics; (5), Department for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases.

Great Improvements in the Staff

In the past Sanitary Inspectors were chosen without being required to furnish any information regarding their character or ability to fill the position. Their appointment was due to influence or to favouritism. It was believed that any person failing to obtain a position elsewhere might expect to enter as a Sanitary Inspector. The chairman of the Committee, having occasion to take a trip to Europe, while in Paris, studied the best hygienic system in the world, and, on his return to Montreal, immediately endeavoured to have the same system adopted which was calculated to produce a remarkable effect on the hygiene of our City.

It was first decided to secure capable employees and inspectors, but, as it was impossible to dismiss those who were already in the employ of the department, it was resolved to instruct them in the branches of knowledge wherein they were deficient.

During three months a series of lectures was given to instruct the Sanitary Inspectors concerning their duties.

Experts in the science of Hygiene delivered lectures that

were regularly followed and produced splendid results. The inspectors were examined after the course of lectures, and those who were found capable were maintained in their positions and also received rewards in money; some of those who failed to pass the examination were replaced. Another important step was taken in the direction of reorganizing the Hygiene Department. To-day the Department is no longer embarrassed with incapable employees, and it enjoys the confidence of the public. Every new employee has to undergo severe examination, and the health department is no longer an asylum for relations or friends of aldermen.

To become an employee a candidate must possess the requisite ability and prove himself capable of earning the City's money.

The Complaints of Ratepayers

For the last two years every complaint received at the Health Office has been immediately inquired into by order of the Chairman. If an employee has been negligent in the discharge of his duties and the complaint is justified, the employee in question receives a warning. If the complainant has misconstrued or been ignorant of the by-law, the employee is defended for having done his duty. Justice is meted out to everybody with the greatest impartiality.

Inspection of Food

It is but right the public should know that it is through the energy displayed by the present administration that the inspection of food is regularly carried on. The inhabitants of a large city like Montreal are constantly exposed to buy edibles that may endanger their lives.

The Health department has to protect the workingman against merchants who endeavour to dispose of products dangerous for food; it has also to look after the children's food, milk, and make sure that the nourishment *par excellence* of our little ones contains nothing that would be injurious to their health.

The inspection of meat in the markets and in the butchers' stalls is regularly done.

Everything that was not sound, meat, fish, poultry, eggs, and fruits unfit for consumption, was confiscated or burnt.

The inspection of milk is done by two doctors in such a satisfactory manner that the number of cases taken against vendors of milk not up to the standard has greatly diminished and the quality of milk has naturally improved to the great satisfaction of the public.

Owing to the lack of a municipal office for free analysis it was up to last year very difficult to have chemical analysis performed of the food and liquids supplied for public consumption. This want was filled by the appointment of a special chemist (who is also chemist for the Province of Quebec), and by the establishment of a laboratory for such analysis for the City Hall.

Every month the municipal chemist analyses, free of charge, the food brought to the laboratory. A father, who thinks that the food consumed by the members of his family is not of good quality and is injurious to their health, may bring samples of the food and obtain correct information as to its ingredients.

The establishment of an office for chemical analysis is a great benefit to the population, and principally for the working class which should be protected by those who administrate our municipal affairs. To-day, our fellow citizens may, free of charge, be officially informed of the composition of the food consumed by their families.

Water, which is so useful, and which may exert a pernicious influence if of inferior quality, has been frequently analysed at the municipal laboratory. The analyst made a special study of all causes which might contribute towards the pollution of our water and has indicated the remedies to be adopted. The Council is now in a position intelligently to take the necessary measures to purify the water and make it a safe beverage. One may easily see, without further explanation, the important part played by the analytical branch of the Department.

The Public Baths

The Hygiene Committee put into execution the scheme for the establishment of public baths, with the idea of contributing towards the preservation of the health of the working class by promoting cleanliness and the proper care of the body. This

year the City constructed a bath in St. Ann's Ward, which was used by thousands of people, for the most part workmen of the ward.

We might mention *en passant* that the construction of this bath (which may serve as a model) cost \$6,500, the sum stipulated in the specifications not being exceeded. It was an extraordinary record as far as municipal work is concerned.

If the public understands its interests, and returns to Council the present chiefs of the reorganization movement and their friends, other baths shall be constructed in several wards, especially in the localities populated by the working class.

When the occasion warrants it we cannot assert too emphatically that no previous council ever worked so earnestly in the interest and welfare of the workingman as the present Council.

The Smallpox

On several occasions the Health Department was called upon to exercise strict surveillance over cases of smallpox which broke out in the City. Such vigilance and energy were displayed that the spread of the disease was immediately checked in spite of the fact that at certain times the City was threatened with a serious outbreak. Vigorous and effective measures were adopted to protect our City against this terrible scourge that ravaged Montreal so frightfully in the past, and to the honour of the president and vice-president of the Hygiene Committee, be it said, that we were saved, while all around us in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario many victims were claimed by the smallpox.

The staff of the Sanitary Department, with a better knowledge of its duties, lent great assistance in enforcing the by-law regarding quarantine, and in disinfecting houses visited by the disease.

In the past the Health Department was never in a position to exercise any control whatsoever with respect to preventive measures against smallpox. In case of an epidemic a special staff was engaged, lacking the experience required to care for the sick. The result was that the City had to foot a bill of exaggerated expenses.

During the year 1900 the City was called upon to pay the sum of \$12,992.40 for the care of twenty-four patients. Un-

der the new system inaugurated this year, by which the treatment of contagious diseases is placed under the control of Dr. J. E. Laberge, fifteen patients were cared for at the Civic Hospital for the sum of \$1,814.30. The average expenditure was \$541.35 in 1900; whereas in 1901 it was reduced to \$121.

The Ambulance Service

What numberless complaints were made in previous years against the defective City ambulance service! It was now one contractor and then another who undertook the removal of patients to the Civic Hospital.

The ambulances were unsatisfactory and improperly disinfected, and nobody was responsible for the bad service. The result was that patients suffering from one contagious disease sometimes contracted another.

Order and regularity prevail, and the ambulances have been made comfortable for winter since the Hygiene Committee assumed immediate control of the service. The City owns the horses which are always ready to respond to the first alarm. The vehicles are heated and well appointed. When it becomes necessary to convey a child to the Civic Hospital a nurse takes her place in the ambulance, and from the very beginning carefully watches the health of the little patient, who is attentively cared for at the Civic Hospital and is made as comfortable as the present state of the building will permit.

House of Refuge

In order to proceed with the work of disinfecting a dwelling in which contagious disease has been located, a house has been rented on Mount Royal Avenue, where the patient's family may remain during the process of disinfection. Formerly poor families were crowded into a single room, but to-day comfortable quarters, with four or five rooms and wholesome food, are provided. This House of Refuge has already been of great service, and general satisfaction has been expressed with the arrangements made for the comfort of the inmates.

The Civic Hospital

An effort was made this year to have a new Civic Hospital constructed after the most improved plans. A suitable hospital for contagious diseases has now become an absolute necessity. Such an hospital shall be built if the reform party is returned to power. Should the civic finances not permit of the immediate construction of the entire building separate pavilions will be built, following a general plan, which, when completed, will provide Montreal with a model hospital.

Vaccination

The greatest facility was offered the public to popularize vaccination. Besides the doctors who performed the operations gratuitously at the City Hall, doctors were appointed in the different Wards to vaccinate at their residences. Schools, factories and establishments employing large staffs were visited by vaccinators. It is owing to these measures of prevention that we escaped a serious outbreak of smallpox.

The Plumbing By-law

One of the greatest hygienic improvements accomplished, and one which will be appreciated by our readers, is the adoption by Council of a by-law prepared and perfected by the Hygiene Committee. Henceforth no aldermanic interference will avail, and every builder must submit his plans to the sanitary engineer, whose duty it is to see that the provisions of the by-law are carried out with respect to plumbing, drainage and ventilation. The vigorous enforcement of this by-law will be effectual in making our dwellings healthier and more comfortable. Employees, well posted regarding plumbing, inspect, not only private dwellings, but also schools, factories and workshops. Their reports are submitted to the Health Department, and everybody is made to comply with the by-law. A decrease in the death rate must inevitably follow the adoption and observance of all those excellent sanitary measures, but there is one to which we would more especially direct public attention. We refer to the

Privy Pits

Before the adoption of the by-law there were, in the year 1900, about 5,000 privy pits within the City limits. After May 1, 1902, no privy pits will be tolerated where it is possible to place a water-closet in the house, unless the proprietor can prove that there is not sufficient space in the house for the improvement. In this case he shall be obliged to conform to the by-law, and make the pit water-tight so that filtration will be impossible.

This improvement is brought about to protect tenants and workingmen, who have neither the time nor the means to protect their own health and that of their families against the negligence of those who place their private interest before the public health.

Economies

Savings should not be looked for in the Health Department. As we have already remarked, when the public is at stake nothing should be neglected in adopting measures for the preservation of life. The money granted to the Committee has been expended, and we are pleased to be able to say that it has not been squandered without benefit to the community. Every item of expenditure is amply justified. The strictest economy was exercised in contracts for buildings, work done by contractors, the purchase of supplies, food, medicine, etc.

Ratepayers may rest assured that they received the very best sanitary service that could possibly be expected with the funds at the disposal of the Committee. Before finishing with this department we wish to say that the employees wearing Corporation uniforms are better clothed than in the past, and that the body of inspectors, in point of bearing and efficiency, reflects great credit upon the Health Department. We may add that the members of this small but capable brigade wear a distinctive mark on their uniforms by which they may be easily recognized when on duty. If, contrary to what is expected of them, they are remiss in the discharge of their duties, the public is afforded every opportunity of reporting the delinquent to the chief of the department.

Conclusion

Once again let us give credit to the reformers for their able administration of the Hygiene and Statistics Department. In a few months our present representatives, without making a general upheaval, succeeded in introducing reforms which had been but dreams to previous committees. Alderman Ames, the chairman of the Hygiene and Statistics Committee, is one of the most eminent of the leaders of our present Council. He has not only scrupulously fulfilled the promises made to the electors, but has done infinitely more. Even among his colleagues, who are opposed to him at the City Hall, not one can be found who for a single instant doubts his devotion to the common weal, and it is the consensus of opinion that of all the signal services he has rendered the reorganization of the Health Department has been the most beneficial to the City at large.

SCAVENGING AND INCINERATION

This Department was created by the new municipal administration by separating it from the Hygiene and Statistics Department. From the very outset many improvements were made. Aldermanic patronage had been formerly exercised on a great scale to the detriment of discipline and economy.

During the new Department's first year an engineer was placed at its head and began to reorganize it. His administration was satisfactory and economical, but his professional knowledge was required by the Hygiene Department, and it was decided for the second year to replace him by a man who would be more closely in touch with the staff of employees.

Mr. Doré was first succeeded by Mr. Dubreuil, who was appointed to a position under the Federal Government and resigned from his office. He, in turn, was succeeded by Mr. Leguerrier in April, 1901.

The cleanliness of our City and also the Public Health are closely concerned in the proper working of the Incineration Department. Alderman Lariviere, the chairman of the new Committee, endeavoured to introduce all useful improvements into the department. Vigilant supervision is exercised over the employees, foremen are held responsible

to the superintendent for breaches of discipline on the part of scavengers under their orders, and the workmen themselves have received severe reprimands whenever complaint was made against them.

Unfortunately, there were found in the Committee itself aldermen who supported certain employees whose conduct called for severe punishment in the interest of good administration. Thinking to win the esteem and confidence of their electors, these aldermen on several occasions insisted on retaining employees who had been remiss in the discharge of their duties and who have been suspended by the superintendent. Thus, in defending the interests of individuals, the administrators compromised the general interest of a large city by exerting their evil influence with respect to details.

We are happy to be able to state, however, that the chairman, Alderman Lariviere, submitted such good measures to his Committee that his colleagues gave him their support to bring about the changes which he wished to introduce into the department.

To-day the public is satisfied with the rapid scavenger service; the lanes are cleaner, barrels are no longer broken and thrown pell-mell in front of residences, and heaps of cinders or filth, hotbeds of infection, are no longer met with.

Formerly, numerous complaints were received from rate-payers which were never attended to. Under the present administration complaints have become very rare, and immediate satisfaction is given whenever a complaint is well founded.

The Scavengers' Department has been considerably improved by the adoption of a new measure which provides for day cleaning. When the work was done during the night many inconveniences were encountered. Supervision of employees was more difficult; owing to the darkness the work was improperly done; and the horses were frequently ill-treated by intemperate employees without the foreman or the superintendent being able to detect the guilty persons and reproach them with their brutality. In winter it was even more difficult to drive through the narrow lanes blocked up with snow.

That the service is now well on the road to improvement leading to perfection is evident when we consider that in the Western Division, where the incinerator is situated, a most useful measure has been adopted. We speak of the separation of refuse into different compartments, one for cinders and the other for garbage. This measure, which will become general throughout the City when the Corporation

shall decide to construct a new incinerator in the Centre and another in the East End, will have the effect of saving much time and money for the City. The cinders can be easily deposited in the dumps, and will no longer choke the incinerators, where nothing but putrescible garbage will be burnt.

We can state that the scavenger service has been greatly improved, that the lanes are more thoroughly cleaned without additional expenditure and without interfering with the work of the department in the least.

The Purchase of Supplies

The large number of horses owned by the department necessitates a heavy supply of hay and oats, the purchase of which in the past gave rise to a system of patronage prejudicial to the public interest. Since the reform Aldermen assumed control all purchases have been made by tender, and the contracts have always been awarded to the lowest tenderer for the best quality. By this means large savings were effected for the Civic Treasury.

The supervision of the superintendent extended to the feeding of the horses, and the waste of fodder was immediately stopped, while the horses were better fed.

Divers Improvements

As the Incineration Committee has at its disposal only the money voted for the salaries of employees, it is very difficult to economise. But we should be thankful to the president and aldermen, who supported him, for having improved the service without increasing the expenses.

A new by-law, governing the removal of dead animals from within the City limits, was put into force, and very good terms were made with the contractor. All repairs to the stables and incinerator, as well as the constructing of a new coach-house, were done by day labour, and the work was supervised with an eye to economy. We may say that in the past an effort was made to expend the total appropriations when they were not overdrawn; whereas, during the last two years, thanks to the vigilant supervision exercised over the different divisions in the department, the rate-payers received the greatest satisfaction that could be expected from the funds granted to the Committee.

FIRE AND LIGHT COMMITTEE

The Committee, which administers the affairs of this department, is one of the most important in the City Hall, and may have great influence, and seriously affect our finances according as its duty is well or ill done. Four heads of departments are under the control of this Committee, viz., Chief of the Fire Department, the Building Inspector, the Inspector of Boilers and Chimneys, and the head of the Light and Fire Alarm Signal Department.

This year especially the Fire Committee played a conspicuous part when it became necessary to prepare the specifications for the renewal of the contract for the lighting of the City by electricity. We will say a few words concerning it a little further on.

One of the Chairman's first duties was to visit all the stations in the City. In some of them he discovered that the men had no beds, no sheets, not even chairs. And yet money had been received for furniture, but it had been spent without any provision being made for the comfort of the firemen. The Committee ordered the necessary furniture and bedding to be purchased for all stations, and this was done for about half the price paid in former years. It is needless to add that the men are all delighted at the comfortable manner in which the stations have been fitted up.

On the other hand, all waste in the various supplies has been stopped. The Chairman, Alderman Hart, drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that an immoderate quantity of coal-oil was being used. Each station was supplied with a new cistern locked with a key, and to-day the expense for coal-oil is diminished by one-half.

Great Savings in the Fire Department

The funds placed at the disposal of the Fire Committee for the maintenance of the brigade were saved with scrupulous attention. The reform members controlled all the expenses of the administration, and succeeded in economizing even in the smallest details, at the same time carrying out great improvements.

A new fire station was erected in Hochelaga Ward, and is a model piece of construction, proving what can be obtained from contractors when the plans and specifications are carefully examined and executed. The Hochelaga fire station, where nothing was neglected that would contribute towards the comfort of the firemen, and which contains all the necessary apparatus of a well-equipped fire station, cost the City only \$17,000. The contracts were awarded to the lowest tenderer. All repairs that it was possible to order in several stations were equally looked after with the greatest attention by the Aldermen who so economically expended the public funds.

The Fire Department may serve as a model as far as the saving in coal for heating the stations and for the steam engines, as well as fodder for the horses, is concerned. The supply officer did excellent work in the purchase of supplies, and the Committee succeeded in saving a considerable amount out of the money placed at its disposal.

During the first year the Chairman succeeded in saving out of the appropriations voted 66 tons of coal and 16 cords of wood. During the second year the saving was 235 tons of coal and 51 cords of wood, making for the two years a total of 301 tons of coal and 67 cords. It must be remembered that an additional station (No. 13) was heated out of the annual coal supply without any extra expense.

Where did the fuel go to in previous years? Who benefited by it? It is at least permitted to say that defective supervision caused the loss of money to the City, which it would have been much better to have expended in improving our sidewalks and roads. The change in Chairman was an important factor in bringing about the improvements introduced into the department.

Firemen's Uniforms

The contracts for the supply of firemen's uniforms were awarded to the lowest tenderers. All the garments were purchased at a lower price than that paid by previous administrations, and it was possible to effect a saving of about one half on the total supply. We may add that the uniforms were delivered on time, and that our Fire Brigade is now comfortably and appropriately clothed. It is quite easy to question the men, as we have done, to ascertain if they are satisfied or not.

The Repair Shops

With a view to economizing the public funds the Fire Committee reorganized the repair shops at Hochelaga. The vehicles and other apparatus required by the Fire Brigade are repaired and kept in order in these workshops, where repairs are executed more cheaply and expeditiously than elsewhere.

No Overdrawn Appropriation

Under the previous administration appropriations were frequently overdrawn, and accounts were left unpaid. In 1896 the sum of \$33,000 had to be paid by the City, although unforeseen when the appropriations were drawn up. Since the advent of the aldermen who undertook the reorganization of the municipal service not a single appropriation has been overdrawn, and it has never been necessary to have recourse to the Finance Committee for funds to cover unforeseen expenses.

Economy was exercised in every item of expenditure that it was possible to reduce. In this manner the staff was diminished without impairing the service, and the administrators economized the sum of \$2,400 per annum.

Building Inspection

In past years this Department was one of the most neglected in the City Hall. We remember the scandals discovered when Mr. Lacroix, the Building Inspector, abandoned his position, and left Montreal in order to escape the charges against him. The frauds were so numerous that it was impossible to detect them all, but it is known that the City lost a considerable sum through the bad and guilty administration of the official, who was allowed to operate in comparative security by previous committees. One of the first cares of the Committee was the complete reorganization and change of system in this Department. Order and regularity were established, and to-day the Corporation receives more money in a single month than was formerly received in the course of a year, during the period of robbery which preceded the reform administration. Here is a statement of the revenue derived from the inspection of buildings during the ten years preceding the reorganization:—

1890	.....	\$297
1891	.....	290
1892	.....	179
1893	.....	327
1894	.....	303
1895	.....	237
1896	.....	230
1897	.....	233
1898	.....	241
1899	.....	307

During the seven last months of the year 1900 the receipts amounted to \$3,710.48 under the new system. From January 1 to October 25, 1901, the receipts amounted to \$5,018.23. This is a further proof of what can be accomplished by good administration.

There is one point to which we would draw particular attention while dealing with this Department, namely, the adoption of the building by-law. The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman Hart, with a zeal and energy for which he deserves great credit, managed to secure the adoption by the Council of this by-law, which had been under consideration for more than five years, and the examination of which had always been deferred by previous Councils.

By the precautionary provisions of this by-law the construction of houses in the interior of the City has been regulated, the laws of hygiene have been put into force to the great benefit of ratepayers, and protection against fire has been ensured in order to avoid a recurrence of the calamities of past years.

The adoption of the building by-law will bear witness to the work accomplished by the Fire Committee and the City Council, which gave up several entire meetings by night to the examination of all details, and to voting upon the numerous articles comprising it.

Electric Lighting

Alderman Ames, in proposing that the Committee should study this important question two years and a half before the expiry of the present contract, gave an opportunity for competition by which the City would benefit.

If this work had been left over for the next Committee no Company would have had sufficient time to compete, and the City would have been at the mercy of the Royal Electric Company, which could have demanded its own price.

Nothing was neglected in order that the City might obtain every advantage by the signing of a new contract. The old specifications, which had not been drawn up in the interests of the City, were revised and enlarged. There is no ambiguity; the Corporation knows what it demands, and the Company which obtained the contract knows its obligations. The last prices paid by the City were on the basis of \$120.45 per lamp per annum, making a total of \$153,061.23 for the year 1900. The Council expected a reduction in price, but was far from foreseeing such a heavy reduction.

Among the competing companies the Royal Electric offered to supply light at the rate of \$95.00 per light per annum. The St. Lawrence Company lowered the rate to \$54.75.

The Committee which had, up to then, awarded contracts to the lowest tenderer, was divided on this occasion, and could not agree to recommend to Council that the contract be awarded to the St. Lawrence Company. The majority of the members resolved to send all the tenders received without deciding upon one or the other.

A sharp discussion arose in Council, and a division took place amongst the Aldermen on well defined lines. Those who were desirous of saving a considerable sum for the City were disposed to favour the St. Lawrence Company's tender in order to carry out to the end their program of economy by awarding the contract to the lowest tenderer with satisfactory guarantees. Nearly all the Aldermen who contributed towards the reorganization of our finances and the introduction of good administration into civic affairs, wished the City to take advantage of the offer of the St. Lawrence Company. Other Aldermen, unmindful of the promises of economy made to their electors, began to waver, and then to set about and encompass the destruction of the harmony which reigned between the well-meaning members of the Council. The solvability, the competency, and even the existence of the competing Company were attacked. They succeeded in gathering together a majority which was to destroy the work undertaken by the Fire and Light Committee, of obtaining for our City the cheapest possible light.

A never-to-be-forgotten pressure was brought to bear on certain Aldermen, who formed a compact to give the contract to the Royal Electric Company. As they could not think, for fear of responsibility before the ratepayers, of accepting a tender at \$95.00, they came to an understanding to offer the contract to the Royal at the rate of \$60.00 per lamp per annum. In the discussion following the proposal they maintained (1) that the difference of \$5.25 per lamp between the

price of \$54.75 of the St. Lawrence Company and that of \$60 of the Royal, represented the cost of erecting poles and new electric wires that had been avoided; (2) that the Royal Electric Company, having given the City satisfaction, was entitled to special consideration. In the presence of this offer of \$60, which was about to be made to the Royal Electric Company, the reform members succeeded in obtaining, as a question of equity and justice for all, that the other competing companies be given a like advantage, and that new tenders be called for.

However, on the 30th September this latter motion was reconsidered, and the contract was definitely awarded to the Royal Electric Company.

The Aldermen, who were determined to uphold the principle of awarding the contract to the lowest tenderer, remained firm to the end, but the majority ruled, and the City suffered a loss of several thousands of dollars.

The majority of the Council committed two faults on this occasion: that of not accepting the lowest tenderer, as it creates a bad precedent, and that of refusing to call for new tenders after all the guarantee checks had been remitted to the different competing companies.

However, it is to the Aldermen who did their duty, who refused to squander the City's money, that credit is due for a saving of 50 per cent. in the cost of electric lighting. The Royal received in 1900 \$120.45 per lamp per annum; henceforth only \$60.00 will be paid for the same service. This means that the City will economise one half of the present expenditure for the lighting of the City, or at least \$75,000.00 per annum.

The ratepayers may thank those of their representatives who defended their interests in the City Council, for having courageously opposed and repulsed all overtures that were made in favour of the Company which was not the lowest tenderer. It is due them and their spirit of justice that the offer of \$60.00 was made as close as possible to the lowest tender. Without their energetic opposition, without their straightforward remarks, the offer would not have been reduced to such a low figure, and money would have been once more sacrificed, as it has so frequently been in the past.

Electors will remember the conduct of their representatives on this occasion, and will repose confidence once more in those who worked for the welfare of the City. With such men we may rest easy for the future. If similar circumstances occur, what they have done this year is a guarantee that they will never forsake our interests. The reform members have well deserved the gratitude of their fellow citizens,

and they and their friends are the men who should be chosen to administer the affairs of the City.

Those who supported the Royal were recreant to their duty, and they were themselves obliged to reduce the tender because of the integrity shown by our faithful representatives.

Let it not be forgotten on polling day!

The good administration of Montreal is in the balance!

MONTREAL WATER WORKS

1870

The municipal service for the supply of water to the taxpayers of our City is one of the departments which required administrative reorganization all the more complete because it had to be commenced at the head. Under the old administration Aldermen Laporte, Clearihue and Gagnon felt the absolute necessity of establishing order in the Water Department.

In 1898 examinations made by Alderman Gagnon revealed the fact that irregularities existed in the book-keeping, and it was then decided to place all the book-keeping under the control of Mr. Dufresne.

In 1899 it became necessary to examine the superintendent's administration more minutely. The Committee authorized by Council held an investigation, which was conducted to the end with great courtesy on the part of the Chairman, Mr. Laporte, but also with the determination to sift all irregularities and locate the responsibility therefor. We can easily remember all the means employed to delay the investigation, and finally to stop it at the very moment that a definite report was to be made to the City Council. A brief of injunction was taken out summoning the members of the Committee to suspend proceedings, and we thought for a moment that bad administration was about to triumph, and that no further light would be shed upon the reprehensible acts with which the superintendent was reproached. Happily, the ratepayers, at the elections in February, 1900, sent to Council men who were animated with the intention of uplifting the moral tone of the administration, and who succeeded in doing their duty notwithstanding the pressure brought to bear upon them by a certain section of the community and by some newspapers.

From the very first meetings of the new Water Committee Aldermen Clearihue, Vallieres and Robertson wished to obtain some light regarding the question of the superintendent's administration, and induced their colleagues to enquire into the truthfulness of the accusations resulting from the investigation. Alderman Vallieres had the courage to ask for an explanation from the accused official, and as the answers he received did not satisfy him he demanded the superintendent's dismissal. The Council, after a stormy meeting, decided to have Mr. Laforest replaced.

Reorganization of the Department

Before undertaking the important works, of which the Department stood in great need, it was necessary to proceed with the reorganization of the Department, and to place at its head an experienced engineer in whom the City Council could impose implicit confidence.

Adopting the principle of promotion among Corporation employees, our Aldermen resolved to choose a new chief among the persons employed by the Corporation.

A competent and devoted engineer, Mr. L. J. Marien, a graduate of our Polytechnique School, who already had occasion to prove his ability and experience in the Road Department, was appointed superintendent of the Water Works with Mr. Geo. Janin as assistant.

The new chief went to work with a will, and with the confidence and support of his Committee he undertook to introduce a system of scrupulous supervision over all the expenses of the Department.

Unfortunately death claimed him just as he was proving himself an engineer of a great promise, and the Corporation had to deplore the loss which deprived the Water Department of a chief who had already won the esteem and affection of his subordinates.

The assistant superintendent, Mr. G. Janin, replaced him, and one of the most competent engineers of the Roads Department, Mr. T. W. Lesage, was appointed assistant. This double choice was most satisfactory. With the new management the Water Committee observed that order and regularity were restored in the Department, that all the employees were punctual in their attendance, that internal discipline was

maintained, and that at last the interests of the public were carefully looked after.

In the meantime the Committee notified the various foremen that in future no irregularity would be tolerated, and that none but devoted, honest and laborious employees would be retained. One or two examples were made, which convinced the officials that the Chairman and members of the Committee were determined to enforce the rules.

Water Works Improvements

Order being definitely restored in the administration, it was time to think of perfecting the system of Water Works. The ratepayers demanded improvements, and the Aldermen recognize that their demands are well founded. But these works are so important that they cannot be hastily undertaken.

The purification of the water by improvements to the pumps, the construction of filters and improvements to the reservoirs constitute part of the programme of necessary reforms. All these projects have been carefully studied by the officials, and are now to be examined by the Committee. The cost of the work has been established—even the most minute details are noted in the plans and specifications, and the City knows exactly what it will cost to supply pure water. When the resources of the City shall permit of carrying out these improvements the City Council will have all the necessary information contained in the report of the Water Department engineers, and there will be no delay in this connection.

This year the Committee has been able to examine the plans submitted by the superintendent for the establishment of an "electric pump" at the high level reservoir, and the proposal would have been immediately given effect if the funds at the disposal of the Water Committee had not been so limited. But, as we have already said, in speaking of the finances, in 1901 the City had no power to borrow, and the Aldermen had to confine themselves to the task of economizing the public funds, and could not think of contracting debt for the City to pay at some future date.

Amongst the projects under consideration the realization of which would give satisfaction to the proprietors, let us mention a scheme for increasing the number of pipes and high pressure hydrants for protection against fire.

There exists under Lagachetiere street a complete series of large pipes which could at small cost be connected with the Water Works' system, from which they have been isolated since the pipes were laid.

As may be seen, the Committee neglected nothing that was in the best interests of the City at large, and, thanks to the activity displayed, the Department received an impetus which was felt throughout the whole administrative machinery.

What Good Administration can Accomplish

In the year 1900 the reorganizers who took in hand the affairs of the Water Department, imitating their colleagues in other departments, endeavoured, first of all, to introduce economy into the administration and stop all waste of the public funds.

They succeeded so well that, at the end of the year, they handed back to the Treasury the sum of \$9,000 which had been economized, yet the administration had given general satisfaction and nothing had been neglected. When we think of what was done in the past, when the appropriations were never large enough, we may be permitted to say that the administrators of to-day have fulfilled their promises.

In 1901 as there was no money available from the Loan Fund even stricter economy had to be practiced. However, at the end of the year not a single appropriation will be overdrawn, and this, notwithstanding the fact that a large number of workmen have been paid out of the permanent appropriations, whereas in former years they were paid out of the Loan Fund.

By consulting municipal statistics it is easy to ascertain the saving effected in the coal supply of the Montreal Water Works.

It became possible to reduce the expenses of the staff by taking advantage of the vacancies which occurred to distribute the work among the other employees. Efforts were made to avoid leaving accounts unpaid from year to year, and all contractors were notified to send in their accounts before the closing of the books in December.

The Savings Effected

In order not to make our work tedious we have avoided as much as possible the enumeration of figures. But all that we have said may easily be verified in the Corporation books. We do not fear contradictions on this score.

However, we may state that the saving effected in the workshops of the Department, during the last two years, is very gratifying.

The expenses in 1899 amounted to \$11,358.91; in 1900 to \$9,352.89; in 1901, to 1st October, \$4,071.63, indicating that they will not exceed \$5,000 from now till the end of the year. It is a saving of more than one half in the expenses, and it is to be hoped that our readers will not overlook this important detail.

Owing to the vigilance of the superintendent the interests of the Corporation are carefully looked after, and all attempts to defraud the Water Department have been quickly detected. Mr. G. Janin's report, presented to his Committee on the 14th November, 1901, shows the amount of work accomplished by the inspectors under his orders. It is very interesting to scan the list of proprietors, tenants and companies who attempted to use the City water without paying for it.

A saving of several millions of gallons was made during the first three months of the year 1901, and the saving resulted in decreasing the quantity of coal required for pumping purposes.

Public Satisfaction

The public, let it be remembered, is in constant communication with the Water Department. Of the various departments of the Corporation it interests us the most, being the most useful to us. We insist, therefore, upon having a well-equipped Water Department, and if, for any reason whatsoever, either the cold in winter, repairs in summer, or a broken pipe, we are deprived of the beneficial liquid, we immediately ask for help from the Corporation by applying to the Water Department.

Look back and recall the lack of promptness displayed whenever you complained about a frozen water-pipe. Often the funds were exhausted and it was impossible to send workmen.

Under the new administration there is no instance of a

public complaint not being taken into immediate consideration. Entire satisfaction is given in this connection. As soon as a complaint is made orders are given to do all the necessary work without delay. This is a small detail, but it shows what a good administration can do, and how easy it is to give general satisfaction when representatives have only the well-being and interest of the public in view.

THE ROAD DEPARTMENT

This Department absorbs the lion's share of the public funds for administrative purposes, and for the constructing, repairing and cleaning of our streets, sidewalks and sewers.

During the year 1900 the Roads Committee had at its disposal the enormous sum of \$502,915.87 for all departmental expenses. Did the aldermen, who administered the affairs of the Road Department, follow the example of their colleagues in other committees by establishing order and economy in their offices and in the work done on our streets? At first sight it would appear that such was the desire of the Committee. The City surveyor, Mr. St. George, resigned, and was replaced by his assistant, Mr. Barlow, with a smaller salary; two engineers were transferred to the Water Department, and only one was engaged to replace them. A reduction was also made in the accountant's office. If we take into consideration the fact that the care of the parks and squares was taken from the Road Department, and that there were no expropriations, the saving in the administration is only apparent.

Abuse of Patronage

But what must be mentioned, in order that it may be remedied in the future, is the abuse of patronage in the Road Committee. It is not unworthy of note that the reformers have been in the minority in this Committee.

If it is true that the engineers have not been replaced, it is equally true that the number of temporary overseers on the various works and temporary foremen for the removal of snow has been increased beyond reason. It were better to replace by capable men the officials who left the department than to provide appointments for inexperienced men, the protégés of certain aldermen.

Favouritism was the rule in the Road Committee. Each of the aldermen endeavoured to swell the list of foremen, carters, water sprinklers and watchmen without the slightest regard as to whether they were competent or not. The result was that the works were not executed with the necessary promptitude and economy.

Money was simply squandered during the removal of snow because of the incompetent foremen appointed to supervise the work. The engagement of labourers is improperly done; they are not selected by the City surveyor, and merit and ability are not sufficiently considered by the different foremen, who always engage those whose names appear on the lists of the aldermen of the Committee.

Delay in Study of Projects

Many important schemes have been before the Road Committee during the last two years, but reports to the Council were always delayed by indecision. Numerous meetings by day and by night were taken up in the consideration of projects which never came to anything, because they were not pushed with energy and conviction. Everybody knows what extensive repairs are needed to our streets as well as the large number of sidewalks required to be laid or repaired. The Road Committee might, at least, have presented to Council a carefully studied and well-defined plan containing a list of the needs of each Ward, with an estimate of the cost, and it would have been possible at the beginning of the year 1901 to submit a by-law to the ratepayers for their consent to a loan.

It is certain that had the Finance Committee and the Council been in possession of a detailed statement regarding the repairs needed to asphalted streets, macadamized roads, permanent sidewalks and wooden sidewalks, it would have been possible to find the necessary funds for the Road Committee to have the work executed. The Charter gives the Council full power to consult proprietors and enquire if they desire to have certain improvements carried out, but it is necessary that the amount required be stipulated. Every time that the chairman of the Road Committee came before the Board of Chairmen to obtain funds the estimates were contradictory, and varied to such an extent that it was impossible to settle upon a fixed sum.

In 1889 the City surveyor submitted a list of permanent works, giving in detail all the necessary permanent pavements and repairs. The estimated cost was \$3,500,000.00. Mr. St. George requested that the execution of the work should extend over a period of five years. The Council adopted this plan, and the sum of \$2,000,000.00 was spent on improvements.

To-day, as we have twenty-eight miles of permanent pavements in bad order, the Road Committee might have instructed the engineers of the Department, without any intervention on the part of interested aldermen, to prepare the specifications for repair work; and the Board of Chairmen and Finance Committee, with such a definite statement before them, could have prepared a draft of by-law for a loan, to be submitted to the ratepayers for ratification.

At the Council meeting held on the 11th of November this year the Chairman of the Finance Committee was obliged to ask for a detailed statement of all the work necessary to put our roads in a proper state of repair, and in making his request he stated "that the largest share of the money available was to be expended next year on the public roads." Mr. Laporte and the aldermen who have supported him for the last two years wished to raise the City out of the rut. If the Road Committee, which complains of lack of funds, had not spent months examining schemes which were abandoned without being supported in Council even by the members of the Committee, it would have been able to submit a comprehensive plan for the improvement of the City streets, and the Finance Committee would have fulfilled its part, that of procuring the necessary money in the manner indicated in the Charter. We deemed it our duty to instance this deficiency for which the Road Committee must bear the responsibility.

Conclusion

The municipal reformers will direct their efforts to the reorganization of this Department next year. What has been done in the last two years in other departments is a guarantee that they will also succeed in giving us satisfaction in the administration of the Road Department.

PUBLIC MARKETS

During the year 1900 the new Market Committee discovered veritable scandals in the administration of this Department.

The dismissal of the clerk of Bonsecours Market, and the resultant actions, brought to the notice of the public the fact that certain aldermen had abused their positions to exact boni from some of the lessees of the stalls, which moneys were not returned to the Civic Treasury. Affidavits and sworn depositions leave no doubt as to this.

In rendering judgment in the Tessier matter, Judge Desnoyer declared "that although certain aldermen had sworn that they had no knowledge of the matter, still after having heard the evidence, he came to the conclusion that Tessier had told the truth."

Although it was very difficult for the present Council to proceed against one or two of its members, it did its duty on this occasion, and obtained this result, which is a declaration, from the bench itself, that malversation had been practiced in the Market administration under previous Councils.

Administrative re-organization

It was, therefore, necessary to reorganize the administration of the public markets without delay. The Council appointed a general superintendent over the markets with the same responsibility as the other heads of civic departments.

The system of book-keeping was completely reformed, and the question of a bonus being paid by tenants is now a thing of the past. All the employees being placed under the control of a single chief do their work much better. The receipts can be controlled, and the civic revenue has been increased. The markets are better cared for, and the public reaps the benefit of an honest and systematic administration.

Conjointly with the Finance Committee the Market Committee settled the important question which was pending in the Courts with the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Companies regarding the Stock Yards. Previous Councils had agreed to a contract which illegally deprived the City of certain sources of revenue.

The Corporation paid \$10,000 to the Abattoir Com-

pany and collected \$15,000 from the Railroad Companies for the Stock Yards. To-day the City has annulled that part of the contract concerning the Abattoir, and directly receives the revenue on the Stock Yards, which exceeds the \$15,000 paid by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Companies. Furthermore, the Corporation has re-established the tax of \$1,000 payable by the Abattoir Company for the salaries of two meat inspectors. The collection of this tax had been discontinued by the old administration.

This settlement, advantageous to the City, brings in annually to the City Treasury about \$13,700.00, taking the receipts of 1901 as a basis. It is incontestable that this increase in revenue, on the one part, and the reorganization of the Market administration on the other is due to the new aldermen, to their spirit of order, honesty and economy.

PUBLIC SQUARES AND PARKS

If the other departments at the City Hall look after our various needs, the Committee which superintends our Parks has the task of contributing towards the beautifying of our large City, and of conferring upon it a stamp of elegance and distinction. Montreal owes it to itself, to its inhabitants, and to the numerous strangers who come amongst us annually to expend a small portion of the revenue in rendering as attractive as possible the beautiful parks and squares which ornament our fair City. This was well understood by the leaders of our present Council when they decided to give the Parks and Ferries Committee control over the public gardens, which were formerly under the Road Department.

Numerous Embellishments.— Lafontaine Park

Alderman Gagnon, the new president of the Parks and Ferries Committee, followed, as his colleagues of other committees had done, a program of reforms necessary in the administration of this Department, after the Council had transferred to the Parks Committee the appropriations voted to the Road Department the year previous. He went resolutely to work at the very beginning of the year 1900.

Logan's Farm was in need of many improvements. They were undertaken with the available funds. A kiosk was erected for the convenience of the public. The artificial lakes were improved, the bottom was raised, and the steep slopes were given a more gentle incline. Owing to the difference in levels it will be quite easy to form cascades, which will have a splendid effect.

Next year's resources will permit of completing the work already begun in the interest of the ratepayers of the Eastern Division of the City.

The establishment of a nursery for shrubs this year at the suggestion of Alderman Gagnon, will be very useful in renewing the trees in our streets and squares, which are becoming stripped of foliage owing to the neglect of previous administrations.

The alleys and paths have been well looked after, the number of benches has been increased, the grass has been renewed in many places, and the green-houses have received the careful attention of the Committee. Henceforth, the flowers and plants belonging to the City will not be the property of a few aldermen, to dispose of as they may see fit. They will be used solely to ornament the public squares or to decorate the City Hall when receptions are held there. Under the old administration the flowers were distributed in such an inconsiderate manner that the florists and gardeners of Montreal were obliged to complain of the injurious and unwarrantable competition in their particular line of business.

Logan's Farm has been so much improved that it merits the name of park. The chairman of the Committee interested himself in giving it the name of Lafontaine Park, and the memory of the great statesman will be thus perpetuated amongst Canadians.

The other City Squares

The squares in the different Wards throughout the City were improved. In the Western Division St. Patrick's Park was transformed, Gallery Park was established and St. Gabriel Park was beautified by constructing fountains, around which walks were laid out and trees planted. We may also mention the square on Mance street; also that of Notre Dame street and the pretty little Bellerive Park, from which the view of the St Lawrence is magnificent.

Victoria Square, which had been neglected in previous years, was completely restored, and Dominion Square was protected against the encroachments of certain proprietors on the north side. The Committee succeeded in settling the question which had been a long time before Council. The proprietors paid into the City Treasury the sum of \$12,000 for a frontage on the Square. In the new appropriations this will be remembered, and the Parks Committee will be granted an additional allowance for general improvements for public squares.

Viger Square was not forgotten. Trees were planted in the eastern portion of it, and walks were laid out according to the general plan for the improvements of this favourite public promenade.

The chairman of the Parks Committee energetically insisted upon the observance of all the by-laws in force. Under his administration the system of cutting down trees to suit electric companies having poles in our streets, was abolished. All applications to have trees trimmed or cut are examined by the Committee, and permission is only granted in the most urgent cases.

It is the intention of the group of reform members to continue the embellishment of our public squares, and by constant improvements to beautify Montreal, which has not been liberally treated in the past.

St. Helen's Island

This popular summer resort has been greatly improved. The roads have been repaired and water courses made for the drainage of surface water. The Governor's residence was also repaired and newly roofed. Next year trees taken from the nursery at Lafontaine Park will be planted in the western portion of the island.

This year the Committee obtained the best possible terms from the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Co., which alone tendered for the ferry contract. Henceforth, the construction of a bridge over the St. Lawrence will make the island easier of access, and it will be one of the duties of the future committee to obtain for ratepayers the free use of the bridge to reach their favourite resort.

Mount Royal Park

It was under the administration of Ald. Gagnon and on his motion that Council decided to reorganize the superintendence and effect general improvements of Mount Royal Park. The appointment of a new superintendent was well received by the public, and it is generally admitted to-day that the Committee made an excellent choice in Mr. Henderson.

With the same amount of money at his disposal the new superintendent gave the Mountain a far different appearance. To-day, the public may roam at will over this park, the finest in America, knowing it to be municipal property.

The roads have been repaired and are well kept; the water from melting snow or rain, which formerly disfigured the mountain side with unsightly ravines, now flows away in the water courses on each side of the roads. Pedestrians and horsemen have been provided with sylvan walks and bridal paths which give one the impression of being in the middle of the woods.

If the Committee had not been vigilant, the mountain would soon have been stripped of many fine trees. The previous superintendent cut down trees whenever it pleased him, and alongside his residence sufficient wood was piled up to last at least three years. Henceforth, Mr. Henderson will remove only dead trees which will be replaced by others taken from the nursery established on the mountain.

As may easily be seen, if the ratepayers of Montreal had continued leaving the administration of our Parks Department in the hands of careless aldermen, the Mountain would have been devastated and rendered inaccessible to the public; it required two seasons of systematic work to put it in good shape.

It is now possible to think of executing a general improvement scheme which the Chairman has had prepared by one of the Corporation engineers, and which will add to the natural beauty of the Mountain.

If we again repose confidence in the aldermen who have carefully looked after our interests we will soon see Mount Royal Park provided with a monumental entrance at Fletcher's Field.

Fletcher's Field will be laid out in a manner that will afford ample accommodation for the amusement of young people in providing suitable grounds for them to indulge in our various National sports.

In closing, we must not forget to mention that the men

employed on the Park, who were formerly ill-treated by the Superintendent, have had no occasion to complain to the Committee, and, under the new management, they have received assistance and protection. The evidence of general satisfaction is most gratifying.

We have already remarked in speaking of the civic finances that the Park Committee had succeeded in increasing the revenue of the Department by awarding privileges within the Park, such as the establishment of a restaurant and the sale of curios at a rental double that of previous years. So that not only were the appropriations not overdrawn, but benefits accrued to the City by the change in the municipal administration.

Electors cannot fail to note this difference when they will be again consulted in the month of February next, and they should not forget that Ald. Gagnon has conscientiously discharged his duty as Chairman of the Parks and Ferries Committee.

RECORDER'S COURT

One of the greatest reforms effected, was the reorganization of the Department of the Recorder's Court. To loss of revenue, to accusations, to threats of investigation, to the chaos which reigned in the Department, order, sound administration and a considerable increase in receipts have succeeded. Taking advantage of the vacancy created by the death of the Clerk, the authorities organized the Department on a new basis. Formerly, the Clerk was at the same time Attorney for the prosecution before the court, and the chief of the Department, having control over the employees in the office; this necessitated his presence in both places at the same time; and the clerk being in court three-quarters of the time could not properly distribute nor direct the complicated and difficult office work nor give adequate supervision to the collection of fines. Immediately recognizing the necessity for reorganization the authorities divided the responsibilities of the office of clerk of the Recorder's Court, and appointed a prosecuting attorney and an office manager without increasing the staff. The prosecuting attorney, as his name implies, attends to the cases in court, has all the time required to prepare the City's side of the cases (very important), and on the whole does very useful work, while the office manager directs the staff in the Recorder's office and pays particular attention to the collection of the revenue. The

choice of the two officers in question, Messrs. Lefebvre & Bienvenue, has given general satisfaction, which proves that it was a happy one. From the rapid manner in which the work is done and the improvement in the general administration of the Department, an increase of \$12,000 has been realized at the end of the first year, which means that the revenue has increased from \$20,000 to \$32,000 at a single bound.

This result has given, as we see, immediate and very remarkable results. At the end of the year the annual report of the Department showed that out of a total of 8,039 cases which had been before the court during the year, not a single one was pending, and that on the total revenue of \$32,270.22 not a single cent was due to the City. This report was received with applause by the Finance Committee.

We may add that it is proven by the statistics for the year 1901, that the revenue of this department is equal to that of the preceding year, which proves that the increase in revenue is permanent.

Civic Licenses

One of the most important sources of the city revenue is municipal licenses. Two years ago the treasury collected from this source \$101,000; this was a great deal, but it was possible to obtain a great deal more, as subsequent results proved, by improving the means of collection and reorganizing the office of the Recorder's Court, where the forced collection of licenses takes place. The revenue was increased the very next year (1900) to \$121,000, which is an increase of \$20,000 in one year. Ald. Laporte, chairman of the Finance Committee, convinced that it was possible to do even better, proposed that the collection of taxes be henceforth placed under the control of an experienced official to direct the force of special constables whose duty it is to collect proof against those in arrears and make them pay within the shortest possible delay. This work requiring special legal knowledge and some experience in the management of the Department, was entrusted to Mr. Bienvenue, of the Recorder's Court who, the previous year, had contributed largely towards the increase of \$20,000.00, which we have just noticed.

Ald. Laporte's foresight was well rewarded, for in spite of the fact that the number of bicycles diminished by over 3,000 since the last year and that lotteries were forbidden, which

meant a total loss of over \$7,000, still the total revenue for licenses for 1901 will exceed that of the year 1900 by at least \$10,000, that is to say, in two years, and in only one department, the City will have benefitted by an increase of \$50,000 in revenue. We may add to this the increase in the revenue of the Recorder's Court (those two Departments form but one strictly speaking), and we reach a total increase of \$72,000.00 in two years of good administration.

The departments of the Recorder's Court and licenses combined bring in \$161,000, whereas two years ago only \$121,000.00 was realized. This shows an actual increase of \$40,000.00, and this increase, especially in the license department where the collection system is being daily improved, cannot fail to continue.

Important Votes in Council

By glancing over the statement of important votes, electors may easily ascertain if their representative conscientiously discharged his duty.

Friday, February 9, 1900. Official Caucus. Moved by Alderman Jacques, seconded by Alderman Brunet:—That Alderman Lareau be appointed chairman of the Market Committee.

Yeas: Aldermen Brunet, Jacques and Wilson. (3).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Gouin, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavalée, Bumbray, Vallières. (30).

Tuesday, March 13, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Savignac, seconded by Alderman Faucher, to amend the clause in the charter regarding the taxation of salaries.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Chaussé, Larivière, Gagnon, Jacques, Lareau, Gouin, Faucher, Raby, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Lavalée, Vallières. (14).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Brunet, Turner, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lamarche, Tansey, Robertson, Clearihue, Bumbray. (16).

Monday, March 26, 1900.—To adopt a report of the Finance Committee authorizing the Road Committee to expend a further sum of \$7,000 out of the reserve fund for street

cleaning. Every member voted in favour of the adoption of the report excepting Alderman Jacques.

Monday, March 26, 1900.—Motion by Alderman Ames, seconded by Alderman Lavallée to appoint Mr. L. S. Lefebvre clerk of the Recorder's Court.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Ames, Larivière, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Roy, Wilson, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Vallières. (18).

Nays: Aldermen Hart, Clearihue, Gagnon, Sadler, Ouimet, Gallery, Lareau, Gouin, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Bumbray. (14).

Monday, April 23, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Martineau to replace Mr. Laforest, superintendent of the Montreal Water Works.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (23).

Nays: Aldermen Brunet, Jacques, Lareau, Roy, Wilson, Gouin, Lamarche, Faucher, Robillard, Lavallée. (10).

Monday, April 23, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Gagnon, seconded by Alderman Ames, to replace Mr. McGibbon, superintendent of Mount Royal Park.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Gagnon, Ekers, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Ouimet, Lareau, Wilson, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (26).

Nays: Aldermen Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Roy. (6).

May 7, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Ekers, seconded by Alderman Gagnon to appoint Mr. John Henderson superintendent of Mount Royal Park.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Ames, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Roy, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Lavallée, Vallières. (18).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Larivière, Brunet, Jacques, Gallery, Lareau, Wilson, Gouin, Lamarche, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray. (16).

May 7, 1900.—To reduce the laundry tax from \$50 to \$25.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Gagnon, McBride, Ekers, Smith, Faucher, Robertson, Savignac. (12).

Nays: Aldermen Larivière, Brunet, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ouimet, Gallery, Wilson, Gouin, Tansey, Raby, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (16).

May 21, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Hart, seconded by Alderman Bumbray, to appoint Mr. Alcide Chaussé, building inspector.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Gallery, Gouin, Tansey, Raby, Robertson, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (20).

Nays: Aldermen Brunet, Jacques, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Lareau, Roy, Wilson, Lamarche, Smith, Faucher, Savignac, Lavallée. (13).

May 21, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Clearihue, seconded by Alderman Lavallée, to appoint Mr. L. J. Marien, superintendent of the Montreal Water Works.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Lareau, Roy, Gouin, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (29).

Nays: Aldermen Lebeuf, Hart, Jacques, Wilson. (4).

June 18, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Savignac, to consult Mr. J. B. Vanier, C. E., regarding the drainage system for St. Denis Ward.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Ouimet, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières, Lareau, Wilson, Lamarche, Raby, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance. (19).

Nays: Aldermen Hart, Clearihue, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Gouin, Tansey, Faucher, Robertson. (13).

Sept. 24, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Savignac, seconded by Alderman Lavallée, to award the contract for the entire supply of coal for the various markets, to Mr. C. Charland, the lowest tenderer.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (27).

Nays: Aldermen Chaussé, Jacques, Wilson, Gouin, Martineau. (5).

October 8, 1900.—To award the contract for policemen's trousers to Messrs. Drolet, Dufour & Co., the lowest tenderer.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Hart, Chevalier, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Ekers, Ouimet, Lareau, Lamarche, Smith, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (24).

Nays: Aldermen Lebeuf, Jacques, Sadler, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Tansey, Faucher. (8).

November 19, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Lamarche, for a special loan of \$400,000 to enlarge the Bonsecours Market.

Yeas: Aldermen Larivière, Lareau, Wilson, Lamarche, Robillard, Lavallée. (6).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (27).

November 26, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Lavallée, seconded by Alderman Brunet, to refund Mr. F. Denault, butcher, the fine imposed by the Recorder for non-payment of license.

Yeas: Aldermen Brunet, Jacques, Ouimet, Lavallée. (4).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Turner, Ekers, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (24).

December 3, 1900.—Moved by Alderman Martineau, seconded by Alderman Wilson, that the Council accept the resignation of Mr. P. W. St. George, City Surveyor.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Jacques, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Lareau, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (29).

Nays: Aldermen Brunet, McBride, Turner, Gallery, Tansey. (5).

December 3, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Clearihue, seconded by Alderman Vallières, to appoint Mr. G. Janin superintendent of the Montreal Water Works, vice, Mr. Marien, deceased.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Lapointe, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Lespérance, Vallières. (22).

Nays: Aldermen Lebeuf, Jacques, Ouimet, Lareau, Roy, Wilson, Lamarche, Savignac, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray. (12).

December 10, 1900.—Motion proposed by Alderman Martineau, seconded by Alderman Ouimet, to reduce from \$5,000 to \$4,000 the salary of the City Clerk, Mr. L. O. David.

Yeas: Aldermen Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Ouimet, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Raby, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (17).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte Lebeuf, Hart, Gagnon, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Robertson, Lavallée. (15).

December 17, 1900.—Motion of Alderman Martineau, to reduce the salary of the consulting attorneys from \$2,000 to \$1,500.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Chaussé, Larivière, Ouimet, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Raby, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (14).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Roy, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Robertson, Lavallée. (18).

December 17, 1900.—Final vote to reduce the salaries of heads of departments.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Chaussé, Larivière, Ouimet, Lapointe, Raby, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Bumbray and Vallières. (10).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Chaussé, Ames, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lamarche, Tansey, Faucher, Robertson, Chevalier and Lavallée. (20).

December 27, 1900.—To adjourn the discussion of the appropriations for the year 1901.

Yeas: Alderman Jacques.

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lareau, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (33).

January 7, 1901.—The resignation of Lt.-Col. Hughes as chief of police was unanimously accepted.

January 7, 1901.—Moved by Alderman Martineau, seconded by Alderman Gallery, that Mr. C. A. Patterson be maintained in his position.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Brunet, Jacques, Turner, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Savignac, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray. (15).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Smith, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Lespérance and Vallières. (18).

January 7, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Turner, seconded by Alderman Raby, to appoint Mr. F. Hamilton assessor.

Yeas: Aldermen Ames, Larivière, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Robillard, Chevalier and Lavallée. (17).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Gagnon, Brunet, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Smith, Savignac, Lespérance, Bumbray and Vallières. (16).

January 7, 1901.—To appoint Mr. Langevin chairman of the Board of Assessors, vice, Mr. Dillon.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Chaussé, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, Jacques, Ouimet, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray and Vallières. (20).

Nays: Aldermen Hart, Clearihue, Ames, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson. (13).

January 14, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Larivière, seconded by Alderman Vallières, to appoint Mr. V. Dubreuil superintendent of the Incineration Département.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Robertson, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Vallières. (23).

Nays: Aldermen Hart, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Faucher, Raby, Savignac, Lavallée, Bumbray. (9).

February 8, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Faucher, seconded by Alderman Martineau, that the Bank of Montreal be not engaged as agent to negotiate the proposed loan of \$1,500,000.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Brunet, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Faucher, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (15).

Nays: Aldermen Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Laporte, Robertson. (17).

February 8, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Sadler, that the conversion loan of \$1,500,000 and the loan of \$300,000 be issued in the form of inscribed stock after being advertised for at least four weeks in

the Paris, London, New York, Chicago and Montreal newspapers, the Bank to act as agent at a commission of 1-4 of 1 per cent.

Yeas : Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson. (16).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Brunet, Jacques, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Faucher, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray and Vallières. (16).

The Mayor gave his casting vote against the motion.

February 25, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Faucher, seconded by Alderman Brunet, that the \$300,000 loan be negotiated through the Bank of Montreal, and that the bonds be issued by the City itself.

Yeas : Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Brunet, Jacques, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Faucher, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray and Vallières. (17).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson. (17).

The Mayor gave his casting vote in favour of the motion.

February 25, 1901.—It was moved by Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Sadler, that the report of the Finance Committee to employ the Bank of Montreal as agent to negotiate the \$1,500,000 loan be adopted.

Yeas: Alderman Laporte, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson, Lespérance and Vallières. (18).

Nays : Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Brunet, Jacques, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Faucher, Savignac, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée and Bumbray. (16).

March 19, 1901.—Motion to submit a by-law to the proprietors to effect a loan of \$300,000 for urgent permanent works.

Yeas : Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Wilson, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Vallières. (21).

Nays : Aldermen Ouimet, Ricard, Roy, Lapointe, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray. (6).

Aldermen Martineau, Jacques, Brunet, Roy and Lamarche were absent.

As a vote of two-thirds, i.e., 24, was necessary, the motion was not adopted.

March 25, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Hart, seconded by Alderman Gagnon, to take into consideration a by-law concerning a loan for the Fire Department. The opposition maintained that all the by-laws were to be included in a single one.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ouimet, Gallery, Smith, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Lespérance, Chevalier, Bumbray, Vallières. (21).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Brunet, Jacques, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Robillard, Lavallée. (10).

Aldermen Lebeuf, Ekers and Tansey were absent.

March 29, 1901.—Final vote to submit to the proprietors the by-law for a loan for the Fire Department.

The entire Council was favourable with the exception of Aldermen Brunet and Lapointe.

April 1, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Lebeuf, to reconsider the vote on the by-law for \$300,000 for urgent permanent works.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Ricard, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Savignac, Lespérance, Bumbray and Vallières. (21).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Brunet, Jacques, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Robillard, Chevalier and Lavallée. (10).

Aldermen Smith, Robertson and Gallery were absent.

As a two-third vote, i.e., 24, was necessary, the motion was not adopted.

April 1, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Lamarche, seconded by Alderman Lapointe, that the question of a loan for the Bonsecours Market be given the preference over all others.

Yeas: Aldermen Larivière, Gagnon, Jacques, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche and Savignac. (8).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray and Vallières. (24).

April 12, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Ekers, to submit a by-law with a view to borrowing \$500,000 for repairs to pavements, sidewalks and other permanent works.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Ricard, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac and Lespérance. (21).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Brunet, Jacques, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray and Vallières. (12).

As a two-third vote was necessary the motion was not adopted.

April 12, 1901.—Amendment to loan \$630,000.00 comprising certain improvements for a particular Ward.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Gallery, Roy, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Bumbray and Vallières. (10).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Ekers, Ouimet, Ricard, Smith, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier and Lavallée. (23).

April 12, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Gagnon that a by-law be submitted to the proprietors to borrow \$100,000 for the construction of an hospital for contagious diseases, with two wings, one for Catholics the other for Protestants.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Ekers, Gallery, Ricard, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac and Vallières. (22).

Nays: Aldermen Brunet, Roy, Robillard and Chevalier. (4).

Aldermen Lespérance, Lavallée, Bumbray, Ouimet, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche and Sadler did not participate in the division.

As a two-third vote, i.e., 24, was necessary, the motion was not adopted.

April 29, 1901.—Motion by Alderman Vallières, seconded by Alderman Ames, to appoint Mr. Leguerrier superintendent of the Incineration Department.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Sadler, Ouimet, Ricard, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Lespérance, Lavallée, Vallières. (20).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Hart, Brunet, Jacques, Turner, Ekers, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Robillard, Chevalier, Bumbray. (14).

May 13, 1901.—Motion by Alderman Ames, seconded by Alderman McBride, that an arrangement for a term of five

years be made with the Incline Railway provided the prices for single tickets be reduced to 3 cents or 5 cents return.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray. (26).

Nays: Aldermen Brunet and Jacques. (2).

May 13, 1901.—To send back the question of the Incline Railway to the Parks and Ferries Committee in order to delay the matter.

Yeas: Aldermen Lebeuf, Brunet, Jacques, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lamarche, Faucher, Robillard. (9).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Lapointe, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray. (20).

June 2, 1901.—To lease to Mr. Elie Prenoveau the City's quarry in St. Denis Ward.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Chaussé, Brunet, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Raby, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray. (16).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Clearihue, Ames, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Ekers, Vallières. (9).

June 12, 1901.—To reduce the laundry tax from \$50 to \$25.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Sadler, Ekers, Smith, Faucher, Robertson and Savignac. (10).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Jacques, Turner, Ouimet, Gallery, Ricard, Wilson, Lamarche, Tansey, Raby, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (20).

June 17, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Lamarche, that the \$4,000 necessary to complete the repairs to the City Hall be spent only after new plans and specifications shall have been prepared and new tenders called for.

Yeas: Aldermen Brunet, Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (15).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson. (18).

June 17, 1901.—Moved by Alderman Brunet, seconded by Alderman Smith, that \$4,000 be spent upon the City Hall

for the reception to the Duke. the work to be seen to by a special committee.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Clearihue, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, Brunet, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robertson, Savignac, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (27).

Nays: Aldermen Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche. (7).

June 17, 1901.—To appoint Lt. Col. Delfausse chief of police.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Hart, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Sadler, Ricard, Wilson, Faucher, Savignac, Lespérance, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières. (17).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Clearihue, Brunet, Jacques, Turner, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Roy, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson, Robillard, Chevalier. (17).

The motion was rejected on the casting vote of the Mayor.

June 17, 1901.—Alderman Raby, seconded by Alderman Ekers, moved that Mr. Legault be appointed chief of police.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Larivière, Jacques, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Ouimet, Gallery, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Smith, Tansey, Raby, Robertson, Robillard, Lespérance, Chevalier, Lavallée, Bumbray, Vallières, Brunet. (26).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Chaussé, Ames, Gagnon, McBride, Faucher, Savignac. (8).

June 26, 1901.—Vote on the Terminal Railway by-law, requiring a two-third vote to be adopted.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Chaussé, Ames, Larivière, Jacques, Turner, Ouimet, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Savignac, Lespérance, Bumbray, Vallières. (16).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Gagnon, McBride, Gallery, Smith, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée. (12).

Aldermen Clearihue, Brunet, Sadler, Ekers, Roy and Robertson were absent.

July 10, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Laporte, seconded by Alderman Hart, to award the contract for electric light to the St. Lawrence Power Co., on certain conditions, at \$54.75 per lamp per annum.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Gallery, Smith, Robertson, Bumbray, Vallières, Savignac. (15).

Nays: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Chaussé, Brunet, Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Lesperance, Chevalier, Lavallée. (18).

Alderman Ekers was absent in Europe.

July 10, 1901.—Moved by Alderman Lamarche, seconded by Alderman Tansey, that the previous question be put in order to prohibit discussion and award the lighting contract to the Royal Electric Co. This motion was withdrawn upon the Council's protest.

July 10, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Savignac that the City call for new tenders for electric lighting.

Yeas: Aldermen Laporte, Martineau, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Gallery, Roy, Smith, Robertson, Savignac, Bumbray, Vallières. (17).

Nays: Aldermen Lebeuf, Chaussé, Brunet, Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Lesperance, Chevalier, Lavallée. (16).

Alderman Ekers absent in Europe.

September 2, 1901.—To reconsider the motion of Alderman Savignac, adopted on the 10th of July, empowering the Fire and Light Committee to call for new tenders; and to offer the contract to the Royal Electric Co. at the rate of \$60 per lamp.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Chaussé, Brunet, Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Lesperance, Chevalier, Lavallée. (18).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Gallery, Smith, Robertson, Savignac, Bumbray, Vallières. (15).

Alderman Ames absent from the city.

Amendment to authorize the Fire and Light Committee to enquire into the accusations made by Alderman Clearihue.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Chevalier, Lavallée. (13).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Robertson, Savignac, Bumbray, Vallières. (14).

Those who voted against the amendment desired that the enquiry be made by a special committee composed of Alderman Ames, Gagnon, Hart, Martineau, Larivière, Chaussé and Lebeuf.

October 21, 1901.—Motion of Alderman Lavallée to refer the resolution regarding the Clearihue *enquete* to the City At-

torneys in order to obtain their opinion as to the legality of the said *enquete*.

Yeas: Aldermen Martineau, Lebeuf, Jacques, Ouimet, Ricard, Roy, Wilson, Lapointe, Lamarche, Tansey, Faucher, Raby, Robillard, Lespérance, Lavallée. (17).

Nays: Aldermen Laporte, Hart, Clearihue, Ames, Larivière, Gagnon, McBride, Turner, Sadler, Ekers, Smith, Robertson, Savignac, Bumbray, Vallières. (15).

Should our Debt be Increased?

As we have seen, the consolidated debt of our City amounts to \$27,522,000.00. The net debt would be slightly less than \$27,000,000.00. Is it wise to advise increasing the debt and likewise the enormous amount of interest which is annually paid out of the City revenue?

We desire to place before our readers a statement of the net debt of certain American cities about the same size as Montreal, and where somewhat similar conditions prevail. The figures which we give are taken from the statistics of 1898, and we give corresponding figures regarding our own city for the same year.

Cities.	Population.	Net Debt.
Montreal	252,830	\$25,856,653.00
Newark, N.J.,	250,000	11,057,774.91
Milwaukee	270,000	6,728,000.00
Pittsburg	295,000	11,571,679.80
New Orleans	300,000	14,444,390.00
Detroit	300,000	4,679,897.50
Buffalo	375,000	14,157,819.60
San Francisco	350,000	133,917.01
Cleveland	380,000	9,079,732.43
Louisville, Ky.,	222,000	8,584,000.00
Minneapolis	210,000	6,821,754.00
Indianapolis	135,000	2,030,500.00

It is quite easy to see that no American city, with a population equal to Montreal's, has a debt even approaching ours. Chicago, with a population of 1,850,000 inhabitants, has a net debt of \$15,450,000 only. Not a single city in the United States devotes a third of its revenue to the payment of interest on its debt, as Montreal does. Yet the American cities are cleaner and better kept than our City. The road-

ways, sidewalks, electric lighting and water service give satisfaction even to the most exacting.

In 1889 our Corporation had a revenue of \$2,224,000 and an available amount of \$2,108,400, of which \$1,011,000 was appropriated to pay interest on the debt, school taxes and cost of collecting the revenue, etc., while \$1,097,000 was for the other administrative departments.

In 1900 we collected \$3,157,000 and we had \$3,192,000 available. Out of this sum \$1,792,000 was taken for interest on the debt, school taxes and cost of collecting the revenue, etc., leaving only \$1,400,000 to administer the other departments. In the space of twelve years our revenue had increased to the extent of \$933,000, and yet the funds placed at the disposal of the different departments, with the exception of the Finance Department, had not been increased by more than \$303,000, principally because the interest on our debt had grown from \$576,218 to \$1,019,847. Our net debt in 1889 amounted to \$13,095,886, and in 1900 it had reached \$26,627,857, and no American city of the same population had reached the half or the third of this figure.

This financial situation, be it well understood, affects only the interior affairs of Montreal, as the payment of interest to the bondholders is guaranteed. The Charter defines (articles 356, 357, 358, 359, 360) the procedure to be followed by the City treasurer to ensure the regular payment of interest. The bondholders know that our bonds are as solid as the best investments and command par in all markets.

It is, therefore, with intention of upholding our good financial standing that we ask the question if it would be prudent to think of increasing our debt? It seems to us that it would be an imprudence which would be a heavy financial burden for the future, and that any alderman having the interest of the City at heart should refuse to consent to increasing our debt.

With the true state of affairs before them, ratepayers will know how to act. They will say, with full knowledge of the consequences, if they desire that a series of necessary works of great magnitude be undertaken with the annual savings or with a loan in conformity with the provisions of the charter.

It will cost the City nothing to consult the electors on this very important question. Article 310 of the charter provides for such a consultation.

310.—The Council may, at any general election for Mayor and Aldermen, held under the provisions of this charter, submit to the electors whose names are duly entered

on the electors' lists in force, or to the real estate owners only on such lists, any matter or question affecting the interests of the City, upon which the Council may deem it desirable to ascertain the opinion of the electors generally or of the real estate owners, as the case may be; but the Council shall not pass any by-law or resolution in virtue of any opinion of the electors or real estate owners so ascertained, that shall not be subject in all respects to the provisions of this charter.

Articles 343, 344, 348 confer upon Council the power to effect a loan provided the proprietors to be taxed approve of the by-law previously adopted by two-thirds of the Council.

Consequently the ratepayers have full liberty to take part in deciding whether or not the debt is to be increased, and, should they consent to an increase, they have the right to indicate the special purposes to which the loan is to be devoted.

A majority of the present council is in favour of improving the City with the object of raising the property valuation, increasing the population of our City and placing Montreal in the first rank of American cities. But, taught by the lessons of the past, this majority does not wish to increase the debt without consulting the citizens. If the proprietors ask for a loan, as they have the power to do according to the charter, the reorganizers of our municipal administration are prepared to submit a by-law for their examination.

Is it advisable to Amend the Present Charter?

The Charter granted to the City of Montreal is not a new document. It is the result of sixty years of improvement to our civil law and it is the safeguard of the rights of citizens. It has been successively modified in the general interest and it would be imprudent to change it for the advantage of individuals. Some people may find that the restrictions interfere with their personal enterprises and they demand that it be amended. But it must not be forgotten that the Charter is our constitution and that every modification to it, unless maturely considered, may be prejudicial to the ratepayers in general. The first trip to Quebec to have certain articles changed, launches us upon a dangerous journey. Electors may always be consulted by means of a referendum as to the necessity of modifying the Charter, and, according to their decision, the Council can ask the Legislature to sanction the

modifications; but, simply at the request of an alderman, it would be imprudent to ask for an amendment which would be prejudicial to the entire community. If, however, it became advisable to amend the Charter, the proposal could be submitted to a Council which would hear delegations of citizens before going to Quebec. It is not the proper thing for a Council, whose power is about to expire, to revise the Charter, because the new Council might be opposed to the amendments introduced.

Taxation should not be Increased

The ratepayers of Montreal are heavily enough assessed, and the ordinary taxes which they have to pay cannot be increased. The burden which they have to bear for water, dogs, horses, has reached the figure which must not be exceeded. And had not the Corporation to meet the interest on the debt and supply funds for the improvement of our streets a decrease in taxation would have been thought of. But if the taxes are not to be increased, measures must be taken to collect the entire amount due. In the past, large companies succeeded in having the settlement of their accounts with the City delayed; to-day this system has been abolished and everyone must pay his taxes. There are no longer two weights and two measures for the big and the little taxpayers.

As far as a reduction in taxation is concerned in our present financial situation, it is useless to think of it for the present unless the citizens were willing to put up with a less efficient municipal service.

The use of the Surplus Revenue

During past years when the time for preparing the annual appropriations came round, the Chairman of the different Committees assembled to divide the revenue between the different departments at the City Hall. Each chairman endeavoured to obtain the largest amount possible for his Committee; this gave rise to certain combinations which often had the deplorable result of causing the appropriation of funds for matters of the least importance.

But this year the Chairman of the Finance Committee took care to notify his colleagues that the greater part of the surplus of the revenue would be used to place our streets in a proper state of repair, and that the Road Committee would receive the lion's share for the execution of general improvements to our roads with the guarantee that the money would be wisely expended.

This shows the breadth of view of the reformers, and not the narrow ideas of those who think of nothing but their own Wards without considering the interest of the City at large.

Fair Distribution of Available Funds

When a municipal commission has funds at its disposal for general improvements it is advisable that a detailed report be prepared, showing the most urgent needs of each Ward, so as to be in a position to treat each Ward according to the basis of its known needs. Aldermen should not interfere with the Chief of the Department in the preparation of the report; the official is the servant of the City, that is to say of the Council and not of a single Committee, or of a single alderman.

The Selection of Civic Employees

In certain departments of the City Hall, such as the Finance, Hygiene and Police Departments, the experience of the last two years in recruiting new employees from the candidates who were successful in the examinations, has resulted very satisfactorily. It is much to be desired that this system should become general. It is the best means to adopt to secure capable employees and to suppress the system of aldermanic patronage by which the offices would be crowded with useless officials, the promotion of employees is the encouragement given to merit by council on every possible occasion during the last two years. The principle of promotion should only be disregarded when there is no official in the Corporation capable of filling the vacant position.

Contracts for Works and Supplies

No Council ever prepared with greater care than the present Council the contracts for work and corporation supplies. Printed forms were distributed to the tenderers; guarantees and deposits were exacted for the proper execution of the contracts, and great latitude was afforded competitors to submit their tenders. The administration party has always been favourable to the principle of awarding contracts to the lowest responsible tenderer, and by this practice considerable savings were made, while disputes, law suits and scandals, which had marked some of the contracts awarded in the past, were avoided.

This line of conduct should be followed by the new aldermen whom the ratepayers will send to the City Hall.

Civic Loans

Whenever it shall be necessary to redeem a portion of the debt, to diminish the rate of interest by means of a loan, the Council will have the right to offer the loan by advertising in the public press, and to award it to the highest responsible bidder. Combination between friends, and secret negotiations are not in the interest of the City, and add no lustre to the City's financial reputation.

Public Service

It is the general opinion in all countries that public services administered by a municipality give greater satisfaction than private enterprises as far as regularity, quality and economy are concerned. Montreal has its own Water, Incineration, Fire and Market Departments. It may some day have its own lighting system, street car system, etc.

It is well that the representatives of the people understand that they must never dispose of the public services which the City now owns, but, on the contrary, they should adopt means to enable the Corporation to assume control some day of the franchises granted.

Equal Treatment for all Companies

Many of the large companies established in Montreal have need of our streets to carry on their business. It is the duty of the aldermen to treat them all alike, and not to favour one at the expense of another. An alderman who would constitute himself the champion of any one of these companies would lose the impartiality which is necessary to safeguard the Corporation interests, and should no longer remain in Council.

Civic Franchises

When companies or individuals apply to the Legislature to obtain privileges which infringe upon the City's rights the Council's duty is to send a deputation to Quebec to firmly uphold the rights of Montreal and the interest of the City in general. The legislative body should be enlightened by the City's representatives in order to prevent the commission of an injustice which would fall upon the community at large.

Municipal Property

The City owns certain building lots and properties which cannot be utilized as public squares or for the construction of buildings for any of the departments. The City cannot rent this property and compete with neighbouring proprietors who pay taxes, but it may be sold and the returns applied to the reduction of the debt. The Charter foresaw this and deprived the Council of the right to dispose of this property for the benefit of certain Wards and at the expense of others.

This wise provision in the Charter should be observed, because without it it would be lawful for a future Council to sell our public squares in order to procure funds to improve one section of the City to the detriment of another.

A Last Word

We have recapitulated in these few pages the work of the different Committees and of the City Council of Montreal from the month of February, 1900, to the 15th. of November, 1901, and we have sketched the line of conduct which the new Council should follow in order to continue the improvements so auspiciously begun.

Every impartial man must gather from a perusal of this pamphlet that the City's representatives who remained faithful to the principle of reform have fulfilled their duty as good administrators.

An alderman should not be judged and refused support simply because he has not succeeded in having a few yards of wooden sidewalks laid or in having the garbage removed at the proper time. The administration of a large City calls for other proofs of ability. Montreal has a large revenue and needs men of integrity and experience to direct the affairs of the Corporation, to supervise the finances, control the police, administer the Roads and Water Departments, safeguard the public health, in a word, to satisfactorily provide for all the needs of our population.

Serious men are needed at the head of our administration, men outside of political influence, understanding the importance of their office and with a due sense of its responsibility.

If the public confer a great honour upon their chosen representatives in the City Council it is but right that the aldermen should be worthy of that honour.

The two years now drawing to a close have enabled us to distinguish those aldermen who have always the good administration of the City in view, and who constantly seek to save the ratepayers' money, and give us the best municipal service possible. It now remains for the electors to make a careful selection of representatives.

If they desire the work of reorganization to continue, if they wish to persevere in the path of progress and imitate the City of New York which, by its vote, swept out the old administration of hoodlers and extravagant expenditure, our City will enter upon a new era of regular and progressive development and prudent government which will be a credit to the most important city of Canada.

Montreal, November 15, 1901.

Alderman H. Laporte's Letter

To the Electors of Montreal.

This pamphlet, prepared with the co-operation of some of our friends, gives a general idea of the work accomplished at the City Hall, during the last two years.

The majority of the Aldermen returned to Council in February, 1900, endeavoured to fulfil their campaign promises. I may say that we did all in our power, considering the financial plight in which we found ourselves, to give satisfaction to the entire population.

Credit for the municipal reorganization undertaken by us is due entirely to our supporters in the Council. We could always rely upon their support whenever the interests of the City were at stake. And the praise given to me personally in different chapters of this pamphlet is also intended for those of my colleagues, who worked so perseveringly to successfully carry out the programme we submitted to the ratepayers at the last election.

Many more improvements are needed in our Civic Administration and particularly in the Road Department.

If you grant us a renewal of your confidence, Gentlemen, we will unite our efforts for the next two years in a continuance of the work of improving our financial standing, upholding the reputation and credit of our City and providing the best possible service in all departments, and more especially in the Road Department.

Yours truly,

H. LAPORTE,

Chairman Finance Committee.

Montreal, Nov. 24, 1901.

