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MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Report of Executive Secretary at the Third Annual Meeting,
January 25th, 1924.

Mr. President and Members:

This is the first occasion on which I have ventured to make a report as Executive Secretary; on previous occasions your Honorary Secretary alone has submitted a report which has been confined to a record of actual accomplishments.

The fact that there has been very much less activity on the part of both the Executive and the Divisions of the Council during 1923 justifies a statement which I hope will be given very serious consideration by all those who support financially, and who are trustees for, as well as by those who are in the employment of Institutions and Agencies which constitute the Council of Social Agencies.

With reason one may hope also that those other Institutions and Agencies which as yet have not seen their way to affiliate with the Council will give this statement their serious consideration.

It is pertinent in the first place that we should remind ourselves of the objects of the Council which the Constitution sets forth as follows: -

- (a) To afford an opportunity to all Agencies engaged in Social Work to realize the relation of their respective functions in the Community,
- (b) To facilitate co-operation in meeting problems of common interest, in developing plans for social betterment, and in creating an intelligent public opinion as to social problems.

It seems quite clear that if the first object as stated, is to be accomplished, the agencies must through their appointed representatives meet together, not infrequently, in order that the various and constantly changing nature of their respective yet inter-related functions may be the subject of announcement and discussion. Only in this way can any hope be entertained of that complete harmony existing between social agencies which is so essential if the maximum results are to be attained through the sum total of their individual efforts.

Referring to the second paragraph it will be seen that there is reference to three specific things --(1) The consideration of problems of common interest, (2) The development of plans for social betterment, (3) The creation of an intelligent public opinion as to social problems.

The first paragraph deals as it were with the internal economy of the group of social agencies.

This second paragraph in its three divisions has a far wider significance.

By problems of common interest we mean those social and economic problems, which, as factors in producing a dependent class of people, are found not to be responsible for one particular type of dependence, and hence of interest only to one particular type of agency, but are found to be directly or indirectly responsible for many, if not all types of dependency.

It seems superfluous to insist upon the necessity for co-operative action in such matters. Is it not evident, beyond question of doubt, that no single agency having its own special function in the Community, can hope to make any serious or successful attack on such problems as Housing, Child Labor, the Wage question, or Unemployment?

Secondly, "by the development of plans for social betterment" is meant something more than the promoting of a new agency one year and a new institution another year.

The implication is, as it was intended that it should be, that the whole field of social activity should be, year by year, under review, and that each and every agency should take a part in, and be a party to, the development of a well-considered plan for the strengthening of existing Agencies and the promotion of new ones, having at all times in view the proper relative functions of public and private charity.

Thirdly "the creation of an intelligent public opinion as to social problems" implies very much more than the knowledge on the part of the public of the existence of certain charitable Agencies and Institutions and the types of dependents with which they deal.

The implication here was without a doubt that the combined efforts of the Council Agencies should and could succeed in impressing public opinion as to social problems, not in a year, nor in five years, nor in ten, nor within any specific time, but certainly before such time, whenever that will or would have come, as the social problems shall have become so acute, so demoralizing in their effect on the so-called laboring classes, so productive of class feeling and antagonism, as to produce either such a sudden overthrow of the existing form of government as has taken place in European countries, or such a class development in party politics as gave birth and strength to the Labor Party now in power in the Mother Country.

It is only to be expected that people in this country who have not given much thought to social questions will ridicule this statement and pass it off with the assertion that Canada is not a European country or even Great Britain, but any thoughtful person who has been watching the trend of the relations between the employed and the employing

classes in other countries of the world, must realise that it is only a matter of time before the struggle for power will be less one-sided than it is today.

Is it inevitable, is it necessary, that we in Canada should allow this situation to develop? Is it not possible for us to determine the reasonable limits of social and economic justice? Is it not possible that a section of the employing class itself may join with the employed class in determining these limits, making the political divisions of our Dominion not on the basis of Labor and Capital, which is what has been advocated by some of the Conservatives in Great Britain during the last few months, but on the legitimate differences which do and should exist between people of liberal thought, anxious to experiment and venture in the hope of improving the prosperity of a country and people of Conservative thought who think old ways and methods best.

As suggestive of the legitimate difference in attitude of a Liberal and Conservative party, one might quote Professor Ramsay Muir's recent essays on "Liberalism and Industry".

If this saner, healthier and more human method of solving these problems is to be adopted, are not those who control and manage our Social Agencies the people above all others on whom the definite responsibility rests of giving a lead to the employing classes, and to our political representatives, which will make them take heed; and if this lead is to be given, can we hope that it can be accomplished without the concentrated, concerted effort of every Social Agency, not only in Montreal, but also in Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and every other large city in Canada.

If the average politician's or business man's estimate of the value and importance of the charitable and social work of our cities is low, it is no lower than it deserves to be.

With the example and the experiences of Great Britain staring us in the face, in spite of the facts, realized or unrealized by us, that all the social and economic problems which we are facing in Canada today, have been experienced in Great Britain, our Social Agencies, consciously or unconsciously, refuse to attach to them that importance which they undoubtedly deserve, and in consequence of an uninformed public opinion, the Country is drifting slowly but surely into a condition of economic impotence, where the workers on one hand is either incapable mentally or physically of giving efficient service, or else whilst capable of doing so, is collectively and individually engaged in trying to measure his power with his employer's power, by attempting to secure the highest wage in return for the least service.

With this conception of the constitutional responsibility of an Agency in the Council, does it not become self-evident that there devolves upon the President and Officers of each Agency a very serious responsibility, not only in the selection of the three members who shall represent them, but also in requiring that these representatives shall be regular in their attendance, at meetings, painstaking in their efforts to contribute the best of which they are capable in thought and action to the activities of the Council, and faithful and careful in reporting back to their respective Boards the significance of the work of the Council.

Does it not become evident beyond question, that the effectiveness of the Council depends almost wholly on the contribution which the Agencies which compose it, make to it, and that the initiative to discussion or action and a considerable part of the action taken, must come from the Agencies themselves.

To quote from the principle enunciated by the Boston Council of Social Agencies "In a flourishing Council (the) initiative must come from the constituent societies." The Central office is only their co-ordinator - their servant to help turn their wishes into results."

Again, with this conception of the constitutional responsibility of the Council Agencies, does it not become of paramount importance that the Council should be 100 per cent strong, that is that every Social Agency in the city, which rightly belongs to the group which we call Protestant and Non-Sectarian, should be in the Council?

If this is granted, should not the forty agencies in the Council at present, assume the responsibility for explaining its importance to the non-member agencies, using all their power of persuasion to induce them to join the Council?

It will be necessary to revert to this question again, but not until we have considered the position of our Council in its relation to the majority group of charities in this Province.

One hesitates to introduce the question of differences in social activities due to differences in religious belief, but if we accept the interpretation of the Council's responsibility as it has been stated, we cannot avoid the necessity for relating it to the particular conditions of the Province and City in which we are working.

Fortunately for the people of this Province, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, following the example of their European ancestors, the Priests and the Nuns of the Roman Catholic Church have since the first settlement of the Country devoted themselves to the care of the sick, the aged, the destitute, and the orphans. Unfortunately, as Dr. A.H. Desloges, Chief of the Provincial Department for the Care of the Insane, said to our Council in 1920, the life of the Nuns and the Priests is so secluded and brings them so little into touch with the social and economic problems arising from rapid industrial growth, that they have not developed an interest or a sense of responsibility for anything beyond the Institutional care of the sick and the destitute.

Now we have to face the facts as they are. We have to recognize that numerically our group is woefully weak, even counting as we may on the support of our Jewish friends. We have to recognize that both our Municipal and Provincial Governments are heartily in sympathy with the Institutional type of charitable activity.

We have only to turn to the first Annual Report of Dr. A. Lessard, Director of Public Charities of the Province of Quebec, to realize not only the attitude of the Provincial Government towards Institutional type of charity work, but also to realize ~~xxx~~ how that attitude may effect our own manifold non-institutional activities.

On page 29 of this report, Dr. Lessard writes: "Besides these large Institutions, which have thus received varied gifts, certain organizations which do social welfare work have benefitted though in a smaller degree, by the help of the Bureau. Thus the "Goutte de Lait" of different parishes in Montreal, the Child Welfare Association, the Family Welfare Association, the Affiliated Baby Welfare Station, and St. Anthony's Guild, all of the same City of Montreal, the "Goutte de Lait" of Quebec, "L'Assistance Maternelle" of these two cities, certain societies formed for the care of the poor and certain dispensaries situated in different parts of the Province, have received varying sums destined to encourage them and to animate them in their humane and philanthropic work.

"THESE GRANTS CAN ONLY BE TEMPORARY, and I think it will be difficult to continue them very long. Thanks to the revenues of the funds of the Public Charities which have been abundant since the first year, and by virtue of the fact that at first the number of Institutions recognized was smaller than it has since become, we have been happy to have been able to recommend that the Government exercise generosity towards the special organizations of which we have made mention.

"But it is my duty to call attention to the fact that the number of Institutions giving regular treatment to indigents, FOR WHICH THIS LAW WAS SPECIALLY MADE, and which asked to be recognized, is increasing day by day, THAT THE NUMBER OF THESE INDIGENTS TREATED IN THESE INSTITUTIONS and for whose maintenance we pay our part, is also increasing considerably, that a sum of nearly \$175,000 is now necessary to pay the regular accounts every three months, and finally that the time is coming when the Public Charity Service will find itself obliged to refuse all assistance to Institutions which are not destined to give regular hospital care to the poor".

In round figures the statistics given by the report show that for the year ended June 30th, 1923, the Public Charities Act provided through per capita per diem payments and lump sum grants a total of \$1,036,000 to the charities of this Province, which was distributed as follows:

To General Hospitals	431,500	
To G.B. Hospitals and Sanatoria	250,000	
To Institutions for Aged and Infirm	135,250	
To Orphan Asylums	95,250	
To Maternity Hospitals, Churches, Foundling Homes	<u>73,000</u>	985,000
To Child Welfare and Milk Stations		
English	5,000	
French	<u>33,500</u>	38,500
To Miscellaneous non-institutional activities	<u>12,500</u>	<u>12,500</u> \$1,036,000

To quote a bit from Dr. Lessard's report, page 21. "The number of orphan asylums in the Province, though considerable, is not sufficient to meet the requirements, and every day pressing demands for shelter in this class of institutions are being made to the Bureau of Public Charities. There is an absolute dearth of orphan asylums for children of from two to six years, and though many are admitted through absolute necessity to some of our homes, there is no special Institution devoted to the care of these children and there is urgent need for our Province to be provided with such homes.

I should say, however, that the day is not far off when these orphans will no longer be abandoned. Some weeks ago, the Government of the Province, represented by the Bureau of Public Charities, entered into an agreement with the Grey Nuns of Montreal, by virtue of which a large orphan asylum for children from two to six years of age will soon be established at Notre-Dame-de-Liesse, near St. Laurent, Jacques Cartier County, and where four hundred orphans will be gathered and kept. I have reason to hope that before long the region of Quebec will also be provided with such an Institution. Some negotiations to this end have already been engaged in and I have confidence that they will prove successful."

It will be seen that with the exception of the Child Health Centre work and Health Station work, the Province gives through its charity act, little or no assistance to social work, which is not purely remedial or curative in character and Institutional in type.

The significance of this lies not only in the fact that preventive social work cannot expect the financial assistance which it deserves and requires, but also in the fact that the Institutional type of remedial and curative work does not as a rule result in an informed public opinion as to the cause of sickness, poverty and crime.

Once again we may well ask ourselves whether we are not largely to blame for this state of affairs. How much attention have we in our *groups & we* groups, how much enthusiasm and conviction have we shown in presenting them to the public.

Assuming that the charities of our group are prepared to give serious thought to the causes of poverty and sickness and crime, which be it said are, and always have been in large measure, also the causes of social unrest, how evident does it become that in the minority as we are, we cannot afford to be content with a Council which represents anything less than 100% of the strength of our group.

Furthermore, it is of paramount importance that the Service Clubs of our Community such as the Rotary, Kiwanis &c. so largely English in their membership should be invited to affiliate in some way with our program of constructive social effort.

I think enough has been said in the early part of this statement to convince anyone, who gives the question serious thought, that our Social Agencies are engaged in no mean undertaking of minor importance, but are actually concerned with problems which are of the highest importance to the welfare of the Dominion, in as much as they are problems which originate from the rapid industrial and economic development of our Country, and which if neglected, but on one side as inconvenient and uncomfortable evidences of failure, to be hidden from sight, and covered up by our charity, will inevitably increase in magnitude and intensity until they force themselves upon the unwilling attention of our legislature, as they have done in England since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Up to 1900 England deceived itself into thinking that these problems of housing, unemployment, low wages, social and occupational deceases &c. &c. were being met by the operations of the English Poor Law and private charity. Since then commencing with the influence of the Lloyd Georgian Social legislation, old age pensions, unemployment insurances, sickness insurance, state housing schemes, minimum wage legislation and a whole mass of legislation, the tendency of which has been to restrict the personal liberty of the individual has come into existence - Why? because conditions had become so intolerable that public opinion demanded the only remedies which seemed possible.

We cannot deceive ourselves into believing that the condition of poverty and sickness or crime in which our social agencies find their clients is a condition for which the individual is wholly responsible, and if we are to avoid the mistakes of the Mother Country, we must utilize to the full not only her experience, but also the invaluable social data which is available from the daily experience of our own social agencies.

Surely, such a conception of social work presents a challenge, which no virile Canadian should want to evade. With such a conception of our responsibilities, may we not enter the New Year comforted by the fact that we have no longer to worry over the financing of our Agencies, determined that we shall forget all petty differences, jealousies and dislikes and obligated to let up personal pleasures interfere with our tendering the highest type of service to social work of which we are capable.

The subject matter of this report so far may be criticised as too remote from the concrete work of our Agencies, too general in its terms to be of practical use. It might well be argued however that it is just that view point which is necessary if our Agencies are to feel the inspiration which comes from feeling that they can share in the larger issues of Canadian life. Notwithstanding this it may be fitting to close by applying the microscope in certain directions.

The Child Welfare Division.

Where did the 500 odd children come from which we have in our Institutions? We have a general idea and in each specific instance we know more or less the immediate circumstances which have lead to the removal from home or relatives; but if any of us were asked to interpret the social significance of the conditions which necessitate the expenditure of over 100,000 dollars a year on their maintenance, we should be hard put to it to give an adequate explanation.

Moreover do we know what happens to these children after they leave our Institutions? We know that here a one and there a one has succeeded and we are in touch with 10, 20, 50 perhaps, out of the 100's who have gone out into the world. How sure are we that we have done all that we could to fit them for the struggle of life that is to follow, a struggle that is hard enough for a child starting to earn its living between 14 or 16 years of age, when it has the encouragement,

the parents sympathy, the advice and the comradeship of its own kith and kin to support it, but a struggle which is infinitely more difficult for the Institutional child which goes out into the world alone, and sometimes even handicapped by the demoralizing influence of parents.

The Education & Recreation Division.

Unlike the Agencies that serve the sick, the poor or the delinquent, the Agencies in this section serve the spare time needs of a true cross section of the less privileged wage earning families of the more densely populated sections of our City.

What are these Agencies doing for these people? What do they know of their lives? To what extent have these Agencies, Settlements in particular served to interpret the life of the average wage earner to the privileged people of the Community? Should we not ask ourselves as Felix Adler in 1909 asked a group of Neighbourhood Workers in New York how lasting and far reaching the effects of the Settlement contact have been? How is the Community equipping its workers for life? Westmount and the hillside homes of Montreal have no idea; yet if the Brotherhood of Men means anything at all to us the least it can mean is that we should want to know whether the Social and economic conditions of the wage earner living below the hill give anything like that equality of opportunity of which we boast.

And who can answer the question if the Settlements and Clubs will not do it for us?

The Sick & Handicapped Division.

This unfortunate appellation seems to have handicapped its work from the start. I am pleased to announce that a very live organization, the Child Welfare Association, is going to ask that its primary registration in the Council be changed to this Division, with a very strong request that its name be changed to the Health Division, a request which I hope will be speedily granted.

The Convalescent Home situation has been before us for two years. When will the hospitals or the citizens which support them save the thousands of dollars a year which might be saved, through the establishment of a large Convalescent Home? That however is of negative value compared with the positive value of preventing sickness and preserving health, and it is in that direction that we should apply the microscope.

Sydney Webb, the new President of the Board of Trade in the British Labor Government, has for years exposed the folly of a public and private system of hospitals and clinics which makes no effort to help people, rich or poor, until they are sick. It is the exception rather than the rule for

even the rich to employ doctors to keep them well in preference to employing them to cure them when they are sick. It is perhaps because children have no say in the matter and are helpless that we act for them in the care of the less privileged in creating Health Centres. Two things might come about from the application of the microscope, first we might extend the Health Centre idea for people after school age throughout life, and secondly, we might realize that good health was an impossibility under certain social conditions such as bad housing, insufficient rest or exercise, and certain economic conditions such as overstrain, child labor, and insufficiency of income.

Who is to tell us the facts if the Agencies which spend over a million dollars a year on the care of the sick, will not tell us?

The Dependency & Delinquency Division.

At the beginning of the year we agreed that we needed to develop local district conferences or committees; we agreed that in this way alone could we hope to introduce the leaven of an intelligent understanding of the problems of dependency which might in time permeate the entire Community, but we have done nothing.

All that has been said in a general way in connection with the other three divisions applies to the Agencies in this Division. Dependency is nearly always a complex problem, and as such requires a diagnosis no thorough and complete that it should reveal the hidden and well as the obvious or surface causes of poverty. And the data which is available at any time in the records of a good case working agency with dependent or delinquent families, if properly and persistently presented to the public, the churches and legislators, will do much to secure necessary social and economic reforms.

In this connection we may well bear in mind that our of the case work experience of a man volunteer worker on the East Side of New York grew the tenement house reform movement, which beginning in New York in 1901 swept over the entire American continent, with the exception of the Province of Quebec, and which has saved untold millions of dollars in the last 20 years.

In conclusion, and having in mind all that has been said from the beginning up to this point, it would be unfair to everyone concerned if this last observation was not made.

Canada is a young country. On the one hand there are as yet comparatively few of its citizens, who possess that indispensable combination of a first class education and complete or sufficient leisure and the inclination to devote a fair portion of it to the public welfare, and on the other hand our Social Workers have had limited opportunities for thoroughly equipping themselves for their important tasks.

In both respects an advance is being made; in both respects an advance, perhaps a little more rapid than heretofore, is necessary if we are to avoid the mistakes of older countries. In respect to the former, can we not find encouragement in the excellent example set by the Junior League of Montreal in requiring a certain amount of service, and a certain amount of training for that service from its new members. In respect to the latter, may we not hope that as Board of Trustees of social agencies appreciate the importance of social work, they will demand a first class general education and special training thereafter from those whom they appoint as their workers, and that they will be prepared to pay them a salary commensurate to the ~~educational~~ educational preparation demanded and the responsibility of the work with which they are entrusted.

Social work may not have everywhere attained professional standards, but at its best it has sufficient of the characteristics of a professional occupation to justify an expectation that the public will soon be as intolerant of the quack doctors of poverty whose practices perpetuate the disease, as they have become of quack doctors of medicine.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) J. Howard T. Falk,

Executive Secretary.

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Fourth Annual Meeting 4.30 p.m. Herbert Symonds Mem.Hall.
January 30th 1925.

A G E N D A

- 1. Minutes of 1924 Annual Meeting.
- 2. Reports of Divisions,
 - 1. Childrens,
 - 2. Dependency and Delinquency,
 - 3. Education and Recreation,
 - 4. Health,
- 3. Reports of Committees.

1. Confidential Exchange,	Miss E. Bowden.
2. Personal Service Secretary,	Miss M. Reid.
- 4. Hon-Treasurers Report. Mr. J. M. Macdonnell.
- 5. Presidents Report. Mrs R. W. Reford.
- 6. Election of Officers.
- 7. Votes of Thanks.
- 8. Adjournment.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S DIVISION OF THE MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 30th 1925, IN THE HERBERT SYMONDS MEMORIAL PARISH HOUSE, MONTREAL.

We herewith beg to submit the Fourth Annual Report of the Children's Division, formerly the Child Welfare Division, of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies.

The agencies having primary registration in this Division are the following:-

The Boys Homs, the Childrens Bureau, the Social Service Dept. of the Children's Memorial Hospital, the Montreal Day Nursery, the Montreal Foundling and Baby Hospital, the Ladies Benevolent Society, the Protestant Infants Home, the Protestant Orphans Home, and the Women's Directory.

The Officers for 1924 have been: Mrs Wellington Dixon, and after Mrs Dixon's departure from Montreal, Mrs George McDonald, Vice-Chairman: Mrs H. Beverley Robinson and Mr. Isaac Gammell, and Secretary Miss Violette C. Lafleur.

The Division has chosen as its date of regular meeting the second Monday of each month at 4.30 p.m. Ten meetings have been held with an average attendance of 16.2. The details of attendance and representation are given below:

	Feb.1.	Feb.11.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
B.H.	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
C.B.	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
C.M.H.	2	3	3	3	3	1	0	0	3	2
D.N.	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	3
M.F.B.H.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
L.B.S.	1	2	3	3	3	1	2	3	2	3
P.I.H.	1	3	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	3
P.O.H.	0	2	1	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
W.D.M.	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3
	9	19	19	20	18	14	14	13	17	20

In addition to the above, the following Agencies have secondary registration: Chalmers House Settlement, Child Welfare Assn. Iverley Settlement, Mental Hygiene Committee and the Society for Protection of Women and Children. While their attendance cannot, of course, be compared to that of the agencies who have primary registration, their work is so closely allied to that of the Children's Division, that it has been of great advantage to have their point of view on common problems.

Beginning in November, the Division has adopted the plan of meeting in turn in the institutions or offices of its constituent agencies in order to become better acquainted with the members of their boards of management and the scope of their work. The agency or institution offering hospitality to the Division presents a report covering past or present activities, or plans for future development. To date, the institutions visited have been the Ladies Benevolent Society, the Protestant Orphans Home and the Day Nursery. This scheme has aroused considerable interest, and has resulted in an increased attendance.

In order that the member agencies may feel that the Division exists to help solve their particular problems, the officers ask for contributions to the agenda. Some of the most profitable discussions have been suggested in this way, and have not emanated from the chair at all.

The following reports have come to the attention of the Division during the year: on temporary child placing; the report of the Executive Secretary on Provincial Government subsidies to private charities during the twelve months ended June 30th 1923, based on the statement of the Public Accounts presented to the Legislature and the report of the Director of Public Charities; the Housing Report prepared by a sub-committee of the Executive of the Council; and the reports concerning a Public Defender and a Legal Aid Bureau.

The Division has had under discussion the suicides in Ontario of two British boy immigrants; the problem of providing summer holidays for boys over eight years of age who could not be admitted to camp with their mothers; the question of more adequate payment for dependent children under the Quebec Public Charities Act, and the acceptance by the Government of the principle of child placing in foster homes; the hospital care of immigrants; the Juvenile Delinquents Act as it applies to certain dependent children; the bills regarding birth registration and adoption; the Protestant-Jewish School question; the unemployment situation; the proposed Detention Home for Juvenile Delinquents; and the Standardization of Salaries and Working Conditions of Social Workers. At the time of writing, several sub-committees are at work on some of these problems. In a number of cases, the questions, after having been discussed in the Division, have been referred, with recommendations, to the Executive Committee of the Council for action. In doing so, we have not tried to shift our responsibilities; we have agreed with the Executive that it would be unwise for a division to pass a resolution or to take action on a matter outside the Council, and in referring questions of the kind, we have acted on this understanding.

The important work of the Division has centered about the Carstens Survey. In February last, with the endorsement of the Executive Committee, the Division asked Mr. C.C. Carstens, Director of the Child Welfare League of America, to come to Montreal, and out of the fullness of his experience, to make suggestions in regard to our children's work. The recommendations contained in the Carstens Survey and the action taken by the agencies concerned, form the subject of a special report to the Executive Committee. It is too voluminous, even in its condensed form, to be presented here. In general terms, however, it advocates the adoption of cottage plan institutions rather than block buildings, the development of foster home placement, and provision for the care of the feeble-minded. While some of Mr. Carstens suggestions have been put into effect, no radical changes have taken place owing to prevailing economic conditions. A sub-committee of the Executive has the matter under consideration, and will report in a few weeks time.

It was at the request of this Division, that the Council office undertook to act as a clearing-house for the dates of meetings, particularly annual meetings, in order to avoid duplication.

The President of the Council has an open invitation to attend all our meetings, and her suggestions have been of great value. The Executive Secretary attends the meetings by request, and acts as a link between this Division and the rest of the Council. We have to thank both the President and the Secretary for always keeping before us the broad and inspiring aspects of our work.

Respectfully submitted,
(signed) Mary McDonald, Chairman.
Violette C. Lafleur, Secretary.

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Annual Report of the Dependency & Delinquency Division.
January 30th 1925.

Madam President,

I beg to submit the report of the activities of the Dependency & Delinquency Division of the Council for the twelve months since the last Annual Meeting.

Meetings and Attendances. The Division has met regularly every month omitting the holiday months of July, August and September. At the nine meetings held, the average attendance has been seventeen.

Officers. In February last, Mr. Geo. P. Butters was re-elected to the chairmanship of the Division with Mr. J. S. Gzowski and Mrs R. A. Dunton as Vice-Chairmen. I regret to report that on account of prolonged absence from the city Mr. Butters had to resign the chairmanship. There was a noticeable falling off in attendance in the last few meetings after the Chairman had left the City, which shows the necessity for permanency of office and devotion such as was shown by the late Chairman.

Subjects discussed.

Legal Aid. Legal Aid has been given more consideration than any one other subject. Early in the year hopes were entertained that a Legal Aid Society under the auspices of the Bar Association might be founded, hopes which did not materialize. Later, very careful reports were prepared by the S. P. W. C. and opinions as to the value of Legal Aid work obtained from other Social Agencies, which resulted in a formal endorsement by the Division of the application of the S. P. W. C. to the Financial Federation for the full grant of \$2,000 for the Legal Aid work in 1925. The consensus of opinion being that the present time was not ripe for the organization of a new society.

Concurrently the Division has gone on record as advocating the appointment of a Public Defender in keeping with the recommendations of the Can. Prisoners Welfare Assn. in the latter's report to the Canadian Bar Assn.

Unemployment. Early in the year 1924, the problem forced itself on the attention of the Division owing to the inability of the Family Welfare to cope with it adequately. Representations^{YES} from the Division were appointed on request to co-operate with the Mens Directory and helped in the organization of this useful Association, which has so materially helped the situation during the present winter.

Individual Agency Problems before Divisions. Several of the agencies in the Council have taken advantage of the meetings of the Division in order to lay before it their problems for discussion and advise and in some cases for action. The Girls Cottage Ind. School request to Federation for a 5th worker at the Sweetsburg Institution was thoroughly discussed and endorsed with satisfactory results. Endorsement of the agency's request for permission to build and operate another cottage has not as yet been acted upon by the Federation in view of the business depression.

Vital statistics as affecting agencies in the Division, Housing By-Law Enforcements, Institutional care of homeless men attending V. D.

clinics, interpretation of the Juvenile Delinquents Act have also been up for discussion, but have not been followed up to a conclusion, a situation which I shall refer to later.

Family Welfare Assn. survey of extent of dependency from Widowhood and Desertion and effect on home conditions.

The Division endorsed an attempt on the part of the Family Welfare Association and the Council Executive to ascertain facts in regard to this situation by questionnaire to the City Clergy. The response was negligible.

Dominion Government Grant for Social Hygiene. Representations were made to the Dominion Government with a view to maintaining the grant to the Province for the Venereal Disease Campaign at \$200,000.

Centralization of discarded clothing collections. At the last meeting of the Division, this question came under discussion, and enquiry into possibilities is proceeding.

Conclusion. It is the considered opinion of those who are most intimately acquainted with this Committee's purpose that the Agency representatives must never lose sight of the fact that the primary purpose of this division is

1. to offer a medium through which the policies of the agencies may be interpreted, so as to leave no room for misunderstandings between different agencies.
2. to be the body through which developments of existing agencies, promotion of new ones and changes of policy may be effected without giving rise to jealousy or complaint.

c In addition to these two most important services, it should be possible through the Division to present a stronger front to opposition or a more forceful request for help whenever any one or more of the constituent agencies finds itself faced with problems, the solution of which depends upon the cooperation or action of some outside body. In this connection, the Division recognizes its own weakness and a possible weakness in the machinery of the Council.

The very small Executive staff of the Council cannot be expected to find time to implement all the resolutions of the four Divisions. The Executive officers of individual agencies, who are delegates to the Division are likewise too busy to follow up such matters as Housing By-Law enforcement, interpretation of Juvenile Delinquents Act &c. The volunteer delegates to Divisions are as a rule not sufficiently well acquainted with the problems to be able to follow up such questions.

It would seem therefore, that no machinery was available for this important work, and we believe this deficiency is felt by some of the agencies to the point of their feeling that Division meetings are not worth the time consumed.

Is not the solution largely in the hands of the Agency boards? At least one of these Division representatives should be a member of the board with much experience, and with sufficient leisure at his disposal to enable him to serve the Division during the year of his representation.

If a small Committee is necessary to follow up a problem to a conclusion, the personnel of such a committee should be readily available from the members of agency delegates.

If a small committee is necessary to follow up a problem to a conclusion, the personnel of such a committee should be readily available from the number of agency delegates.

The Executive officers of the agencies and of the Council should be available for consultation, but the volunteers should be willing and competent to take such action as the situation may demand.

The members of the Division have undoubtedly, during 1924, got to know each other better, confidence and a desire for free and frank discussion has been established. In 1925 with a very careful selection of agency representatives and then from their number of the Division Officers, we are confident that the full purpose of the Division will be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

for the Hon. Secretary,

Esther W. Kerry.

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Report of the Education and Recreation Division for the
Year 1924

Nine of the Constituent Agencies in the Council have primary representation in this Division, and three have secondary. During 1924 six regular meetings were held with an average attendance of 15.

One of the aims of the Division was to collect and distribute useful information about simple inexpensive work along handicraft lines and to arrange for a Social Agencies section in the Canadian Handicraft's October Exhibition. It was felt that a friendly rivalry among the Agencies would ~~be~~ be promoted and the Guilds high standard of work be set up as an example for the children. It was also gave the Agencies a reason for urging in their neighbourhoods the better use of the free days at the Art Gallery. This Exhibition would also help publicity at the time of the Federation Drive. "Something out of nothing" models - that is various ways of using scraps and rags, - were taken up by the ~~the~~ Iverley Settlement and the Parks & Playgrounds Association. Simple card weaving was shown by the University Settlement. In June the first examples of work done by some shut-in patients of the V.O.N. were exhibited and were greatly admired for the perfect work and beautiful colouring.

The thanks of the Division are due the following speakers: Miss Postill, History of the Y.W.C.A.; Mrs James Peck, Home made Vegetable Dyeing as a past-time; Miss Phillips, Canadian Handicrafts Guilds Standards; Dr. A.G. Murphy, Therapeutic Value of Handicraft Work: which was most inspiring to the Division. Miss IvadellmHurd showed what could be accomplished by handicapped patients in craft work. If an intensive training can do so much for the abnormal and the sub-normal child, how much more will it do for the normal child who must earn his living by his hands. The announcement that Dr. Morphy's Institute had enlarged its scope to take in feeble-minded children and that there are still a few vacancies there, was good news for the Agencies.

Mr. C.W.Powteraddressed us on Camp Activities for Boys. Mr. D.H.Scott told of the Old Brewery Mission camp at Lake Chapleau: Mr.Wm.Bowie spoke on the Parks & Playgrounds summer programme and Miss Elizabeth Murray demonstrated character building by story telling to a number of children who came up from the University Settlement.

Some suggestions were sent into the Division which were carried out wherever possible - Mrs Reford suggested a flower distribution to the Parks and Playgrounds children which was carried out in July and August; Mrs George McDonald urged a Survey of Divisional Annual meetings, which was made in March; and Miss Kathleen Moore stressed the need of volunteer craft instructors. Strenuous efforts were made to put this suggestion into effect, but without success. Owing to Mrs James Peck's kindness, four hand looms were donated to the Agencies, also a book on "Vegetable Dye Rules" Though the girls at the Girls Cottage Industrial School found the weaving rather exciting and a little beyond them, the University Settlement has one loom going most vigorously, and the children are hoping another will be set up shortly.

Mrs Peck conducted three special meetings for Girl Camp Leaders and one for Clubs. Handicraft models and rules were supplied to three Agencies, models of English disabled soldiers work were donated by Mrs Reford and made use of by the Occupational Therapy Department of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Six models of French raffia work were shown by Miss Watt and also used as samples.

The work shown by the Settlements and other Agencies in the Canadian Handicraft Guild's exhibition was most creditable, and they succeeded in winning thirteen prizes and twenty five red ribbons of merit.

Owing to Miss Watt's unremitting efforts in connection with the Parks and Playgrounds summer session work, she had to take a vacation in the Fall, and Mrs Reford kindly acted as Chairman in her absence at the Division meeting held at the Iverley Settlement in November, when Miss Blackader gave a most inspiring report on the activities of the Parks & Playgrounds summer work, which had grown tremendously, and was filling a long felt need amongst both boys and girls. Miss Jarvis reported five handicraft clubs at the University Settlement and stressed the need of volunteer craft instruction.

The following movements were heartily endorsed by the Division - the "Public Charities Act" which the Health Division originally discussed and sent on to the other Divisions, and the "Legal Aid and Public Defender Bureau", felt to be a great need by the Dependency and Delinquency Division.

It is hoped that by bringing its special problems and successes to the meetings of this Division, each co-operating agency will help to make the season of 1925 a most successful and helpful one.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Isabel G. Louson,

Hon. Secretary.

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Annual Report of Health Division.

Ten meetings were held in 1924 with an average attendance of 14.

A very interesting address was given at one of the early meetings by Dr. Morphy on the education and care of Epileptics, the result of this address being that agencies found that some of their cases were available for the Industrial Institute for Epileptics where the pupils are given lessons in handicraft work.

A clear and exhaustive report of conditions here and the methods employed in other cities for employment of the physically handicapped was prepared by Miss Rushbrooke, Social Service Dept. of the Royal Victoria Hospital and Miss Davidson, Social Service Dept. of the Montreal General Hospital. The need for special employment for the physically handicapped was strongly brought out, as case after case had to return to the hospital owing to strain from unsuitable work or overwork; it would have been a saving to the tax payers and the Community if these people could have been properly cared for on discharge from hospital.

Housing Survey. Reports of bad housing conditions were collected by social workers of the Montreal General, Royal Victoria and Western Hospitals, and by the nurses of the Victorian Order, and sent to Mrs George McDonald who prepared a statement for distribution to the Executive.

Sanitarium at St. Agathe. The need of a home for tubercular patients was discussed at several meetings and a telegram was sent to Mr. David, Provincial Secretary asking when the hospital at St. Agathe would be opened. At the June meeting of the Anti Tuberculosis and General Health League, a very strong motion was presented by the Health Division, urging the League to use its influence to get the Sanitarium opened at an early date - in spite of many negotiations between interested organizations ~~xxxxxx~~ and the Provincial Government, the home is still unopened.

Homeless Men. It was pointed out by the hospital social workers that there was need of a place where homeless men could go for a few days after leaving hospital. It was suggested that one floor of the Meurling Refuge might be used for this purpose.

The Division as a whole and each agency represented sent a telegram to the Premier protesting the reduction in the appropriation for ~~the~~ Venereal Disease.

The hospitalization for foreigners was freely discussed and it was found that it was a question between the hospitals and the Government.

The Division offered to arrange a meeting for Mrs Relfe, who was in Canada representing the Committee for Combating Venereal Disease, but later this was arranged by another organization.

Cases of unemployment applying to the Social Service Depts. of the hospitals were referred to the City Hall and a careful list kept of all such cases. It was found that no applicants were given work.

With a view to co-ordinating the Agencies in the Division, it was decided for the winter meetings to ask each Agency to give an outline of its aims and accomplishments; we have had reports from the Brehmer Rest and the Diet Dispensary, the result being a fuller knowledge of their work and a more adequate understanding of how other Agencies may work with them to mutual advantage.

Dr. A.G.Fleming of the Anti Tuberculosis and General Health League gave an interesting address on conditions of health and housing in the City, and what was being planned for improvement and education. A full report of the Address was published in the various daily papers. A resolution was passed at the meeting asking members who were aware of any houses being built contrary to by-laws, viz; containing dark rooms, to report same to Dr.Fleming or to the Montreal Council of Social Agencies.

A vote of thanks from the Division was tendered to Lord Atholstan for his gift in the interest of health in the Community.

Mrs C.R. Bourne was appointed from the Division to assist in editing the annual reports.

At the December meeting reports were given by the members of the Division who attended the National Conference of Social Work at Toronto last June.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Maud F.Sampson,

Hon-Secretary, Health Division.

January 30 th 1925.

CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE
OF THE
MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

The Confidential Exchange through its card index of the families and individuals known to the various agencies, helped to secure cooperation between 96 Social, Medical, Religious and Educational agencies during the year 1924.

The Exchange does not keep any record of personal history, but deals only with "identifying information" so that a report from the Exchange that a family is, or has been known to other than the inquirer, must be followed up. That is to say, the inquiring agency is obliged to communicate with the agency or agencies which knew the family previously to obtain any information, and it has been found that through the agencies being brought together in this manner, cooperation in the social work of a community is advanced to a greater degree.

While the following statistics review to some extent the work of the past year, the usefulness of the Exchange can only be measured by the help rendered to agencies which enables them to save time, money and energy and to give a more sympathetic and efficient service to their clients.

Included in the 96 agencies referred to above are 14 new ones which used the Exchange during the year.

The total number of inquiries was 7,461 and in 3,975 instances, or 53.3%, it was found that one or more agencies were, or had been previously interested in the same family or individual. Notifications to the number of 14,934 were sent out from the Exchange to connect up the inquiring agency with those which had had a previous interest.

CHRISTMAS CLEARING.

The Christmas Clearing ensures a more equal and saner distribution of Christmas Dinners and Baskets. In the period from the first to the twenty fourth of December 1924, 3,931 inquiries were made by 99 agencies. An increase of 618 inquiries and 26 agencies over the year 1923.

Of the 3,931 inquiries referred to above the following is an analysis:-

2503	families	were	inquired	of	once
372	"	"	"	"	twice
149	"	"	"	"	three times
33	"	"	"	"	four times
17	"	"	"	"	five times
1	family	was	inquired	of	six times
2	families	were	inquired	of	seven times.

Seven families received 3 dinners and 183 families received two dinners, the majority of the latter with the consent of the interested agencies, on account of illness, extreme poverty and large families. Others of the two groups received 2 and 3 dinners as a result of the agencies giving the names of families to other societies or private individuals, who were providing dinners, before making inquiry of the Exchange. It was found that inaccuracy in name or address was also responsible for duplications. These errors were not discovered until it was too late to cancel the dinners.

Christmas Clearing continued

One Society sent a list of 66 names for the Clearing on the same day that their dinners were distributed. This late registration was useless and contributed to the number of those receiving 2 and 3 dinners.

While the Christmas Clearing has accomplished a great deal towards a wider distribution of Christmas Cheer, there is still room for improvement as indicated by the following story from one of the agencies.

"Mr. B. called at the office on Monday Dec. 29th. and stated that he had received 5 Christmas Dinners. Three of which were from private individuals and as there was more meat than the family could use, he had left some of it in the house from which he had moved ~~next~~ morning."

Only one inquiry was made about this family and the worker stated that one dinner would have been quite sufficient for them.

SUMMER CAMP CLEARING.

The Exchange Executive Committee and the General Conference Committee both decided, that in view of the small number of duplications in the Summer Camp Clearings for the past two years, that it was not worth while to continue this branch of the Exchange another year.

WORK OF THE EXCHANGE EXPLAINED.

In May and November special meetings were held for the purpose of explaining to Clergymen, Social Workers and others, the value of the Exchange in social case work. Lantern slide illustrations were used. Through the kindness of Dean Carlisle and the Rev. H. Cecil Cox, these meetings were held in the Parish Houses of Christ Church Cathedral and St. Thomas's Church.

The work of the Exchange was also explained by the Secretary at five meetings, and to 86 individuals and groups of students.

SPECIAL CASE CONFERENCE.

A new activity of the Exchange is the calling of special case conferences at the request of any agency interested in a family that has been known to several agencies during a short period of time; or where workers from several different types of agencies may be simultaneously engaged in the rehabilitation of a family.

GROWTH OF THE EXCHANGE.

In comparing the statistics for the past five years it is interesting to note that the number of notifications and identifications have increased each year as more agencies used the Exchange. The decrease in the number of inquiries in 1923 was due to the closing of some war relief agencies.

Christmas Clearing continued

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Growth of the Exchange continued

STATISTICS.

YEAR	Inquiries	Notifications	Identifications	Agencies served
1920	6965	11026	-	40
1921	7742	12404	2868	41
1922	7848	13826	3253	66
1923	7085	13609	3540	82
1924	7461	14934	3975	96

The growth of the Exchange since 1916 would appear to reflect the necessity for its existence in our scheme of social endeavour and to indicate that it has won the confidence of those who are working to lighten the burden of our less fortunate fellow-men.

Respectfully submitted,
(signed) Elsie Bowden,
Secretary, Confidential Exchange.

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Annual Report of the Personal Service Bureau,
January 30th 1925.

The Personal Service Bureau was organized in March 1924 in an effort to link more closely to the social agency, the growing desire of the community to express itself in service. It was thought that in the volunteer would be found not only a source of immediate help for the agency struggling with its increasing amount of work, but also the means for providing the future with a group of men, it was hoped, as well as women, who would know what organized social work is about, and have grasped its possibilities, and in the recruiting of the volunteer the Council saw the possibilities for educational work, for after all no social agency, no matter how satisfactorily organized and efficiently managed can afford to dispense with an intelligent community support; a support based on an understanding of its aims and a knowledge of its work.

Three problems then faced the Personal Service Bureau:

1. where is the volunteer to be found?
2. to what appeal will she respond?
3. how is she to be treated when she does offer her services.

It seemed natural to turn to the Church first of all. There the spirit of service is fostered; there will be found the one most interested in what appears to be nothing less than practical christianity. And the Womens Clubs are a close second. With their large membership and the opportunities they give for discussion of problems of living, it would be unwise to delay in seeking their assistance.

But even with these rich sources, the approach was not always clear. Will the volunteer respond only to the spoken word? Does the informal talk to the group bring recruits or does this have to be followed up by personal interviews? Or would better results be achieved if the Bureau made a contact with the minister or Church worker, or some one of influence in the Church or Club who would be responsible for explaining this work to the group and persuading members to offer their services? These questions can be answered only after the different ways of approaching the volunteer have been tested out.

Nor is the question of how to treat the volunteer an easy one to answer. She is untrained when she offers her services, and knows little of the purpose of social work. Should she be trained through the study group and not allowed to undertake any of the practical work until she has completed her course? But she says she came to help, not to study, and her pre-conceived idea of the work does not show the need for time being taken up in this way. If she is placed at once in the agency, what can she do? There are always tasks she can undertake without the likelihood of causing any great harm - she can carry messages, take children to clinics, look up records &c. In this way she meets people in different circumstances, learns to talk to them with ease, passes through neighbourhoods unfamiliar to her and sees something of the workings of the different agencies. But she is doing what to her is an "odd job" she is not getting to understand the work of the society, she does not appreciate its aim or see its possibilities. These tasks given her are isolated in her mind; she does not see

their social significance and comes to believe that her time can be more profitably spent elsewhere. She becomes irregular in her work and finally disappears. If in the meantime she is a member of a study group that succeeded in any small way in achieving its object, she becomes conscious of a growing power within her self and a desire to take on more responsibility in this important field of social work. Should we expect that this young, growing human being turning to service because she catches a glimpse of a life rich because of the sharing of trouble as well as pleasure, should we expect her to fit into our organizations and do our "odd jobs" for us? Does this give the immediate help expected.? Does it help a society to have any task - relating to human beings done in the casual way an "odd job" is undertaken - Will the Future find valuable Board and Committee members in this group and will these volunteers carry to their friends the aims and possibilities of social work? If we are going to be just to the volunteer, if we are going to keep her, we shall have to provide a study group for her; we shall have to recognize that she will have to be guided slowly and carefully from less to more responsible duties. We shall have to recognize that time will have to be given by the agencies to her supervision, if her service is to be of value to the present and the future.

The following report will give briefly an idea of the work, ^{of} the work of the Personal Service Bureau which is still in the experimental stage:-

Volunteers connected with Social Agencies.....	26	
" getting acquainted with Social Agencies and finding		
other volunteers.....	4	
" in a study group expecting soon to work.....	4	
" who have done some work and have now left.....	12	
		<u>46</u>
Total		

Study Classes.

For volunteers.....	28	
" paid workers.....	28	
		<u>56</u>

Talks in the Community.....25

How the volunteer was found. Of the 34 now working or willing to work:-

McGill.....	7	Womens Clubs.....	12	
Church workers.....	5	Own initiative.....	2	
Referred by Volunteer.....	6	Junior League.....	2	
				<u>34</u>

Of the 12 who have left:

Church Work.....	2	Ministers.....	4	
Own Initiative.....	4	Referred by Volunteer..	1	
McGill.....	1			<u>12</u>

Reasons why the 12 left.

Returned to College.....	1	Other interests stronger.	5	
Found paid positions and could not give the time.....	5			
Doing Church work outside the agencies under the Council.....	1			<u>12</u>

Respectfully submitted,
 (signed) May Reid.
 Personal Service Secretary.

In 1924, no less than 34 agencies agreed to issue their annual report together under one cover. Each Agency was responsible for its own material, but the work of assembling the reports and preparing them for publication was done by your Council Executive Office. This combined report has been of great convenience to the public, and at the same time has been instrumental in promoting considerable talent.

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES.

Annual Meeting - January 30th 1925.

Report of President for Year 1924.

In presenting this report, the Executive of your Council is pleased to be able to state at the outset that much of what we fore-shadowed at the last annual meeting has been implemented. At the same time, it is not wished to convey that your Executive is not fully aware that it has nothing to place before you which indicates that, whatever may have been the achievement, it has carried us higher than the lower rungs on the ladder of our hopes.

Your Executive has held eight regular meetings during the year and in addition to these, one special meeting was called at the request of a Constituent Agency, the Family Welfare Association: this subject will be referred to later.

With the object of endeavouring to strengthen the Divisions of the Council, your Executive, upon taking office, made their re-organization its first concern. It should be borne in mind that the whole structure of the Council is based upon the Agencies themselves, the Divisions providing the clearing houses to which the Agency problems should be brought for discussion, and the channels through which their decisions on social work in general must reach the Council. It can thus readily be understood that the degree of strength, or of weakness, prevailing in the rounded life of the Agencies - meaning in their administrative as well as in their executive work - is a strengthening or weakening factor, as the case may be, in the Divisions to which they belong, just as each Division according to the measure of its force, or the lack of it, contributes to, or detracts from, the power of the Council as a whole, to fulfil the objects for which it was called into being.

Upon consideration, it was concluded that the machinery originally devised for bringing the Agencies together in Divisions, grouping them with regard to their mutual relationships, could not be improved upon, but that the divisional machinery might be strengthened. Consequently certain changes were introduced such as definite dates being set apart for holding monthly meetings, the creation of a new divisional office, viz., that of Hon-Secretary, carrying with it the right to attend meetings of the Council's Executive so that each Division is now entitled to send four representatives to the Executive - Chairman, two vice-chairmen, and Hon-Secretary. Furthermore, at the beginning of the year every agency was not only requested to appoint three delegates to represent it in the Division to which it belongs with primary representation, but urged that it should appoint substitutes for each of its three delegates, who might replace the regular delegate when necessary

and so avoid any agency ever finding itself without adequate representation. Your Executive rather assured itself that with such precautions it had safeguarded against any likelihood of insufficient agency attendance. It has, however, been too often proven, even in this scientific age that it lies, as yet, beyond the ingenuity of man to provide the world with a machine or machinery which can, as such, function of itself alone. Your Executive regrets that it is obliged to add its testimony to the truth of that platitude, for notwithstanding the machinery that had been carefully set up to secure it, the Divisional meetings have not received the attendance per agency which it was believed they might expect. In the Children's Division with its nine primary representation agencies, and a possible maximum attendance of 27 per meeting, the highest reached was 20, with an average attendance of 16.2. One Agency in this Division, the Children's Bureau, takes first place over all others in the whole Council for divisional attendance with its three delegates present at 9 out of 10 meetings held; the Women's Directory has second place in both the Division and the Council with full representation at 8 out of 10 meetings. The average in the Children's Division would have been extremely high had it not been that one of the Agencies omitted to be represented ~~at all~~ at 7 meetings, two never succeeded in having full representation and one other only once attained to it.

In the Dependency and Delinquency Division, also with 9 primary representation Agencies the maximum attendance at any meeting was 18 out of a possible 27, while the average dropped down to 12. First place for full representation in this Division goes to the Sheltering Home with three delegates present at 50% of the meetings and the Family Welfare second in this respect. Two agencies were unrepresented at 5 and 6 meetings respectively out of the 9 held.

Owing to the prolonged illness of Miss Watt, Chairman of the Education and Recreation Division, and to the Vice-Chairman, Gen. McCuaig, having undertaken heavy emergency work in connection with unemployment, and to other unforeseen circumstances, the Division has only been able to hold five meetings. It includes 10 agencies. The Parks & Playgrounds Association leads in attendance, but with several Agencies being unrepresented at the majority of the meetings, the average is necessarily very unsatisfactory.

The Health Division suffered the handicap in the beginning of the year of having no Chairman, for despite the fact that this Division includes the largest Institutions and Organizations in the City, difficulty was experienced in securing anyone willing to assume that responsibility. Ten meetings were held and the maximum attendance was 14 out of a possible 33, for there are 11 agencies in the Health Division; the average attendance was 12.5.

It must not be taken, however, that these figures show the entire actual attendance at meetings, as in every instance there were representatives present from Agencies having secondary representation in the Divisions. They have not been included in the numbers quoted, as secondary representation is without voting power.

From these statements, you will judge that we stand at considerable distance from attaining to some of the objects of this Council as contained, for example, in a paragraph of its constitution which reads:-

"To facilitate co-operation in meeting problems of common interest, in developing plans for social betterment, and in creating an intelligent public opinion as to social problems."

Consider the first part of that paragraph -- how is it possible for the Council to assist in meeting problems if they are not brought forward, and if for several meetings during the year agencies fail to send even one representative? Non-attendance cannot possibly facilitate co-operation. Is it surprising under these circumstances that it has occurred that one Agency has been in entire ignorance of an all important branch of the work of another member of the same Division, though the work of that particular agency is of a type which at any moment may require the services of the other? How is it possible for an agency to be informed of divisional discussion -- and none are without some value to all social work -- if it does not insist on sufficient delegates being present at meetings to ensure at least one of them attending its own following board meeting and in a position to report back from the Division? Not a year goes by that does not see the threads of our civilization drawn more closely together; we are all inevitably and increasingly bound up with one another, and no one nation, institution or organization ever is or can be self-sufficing -- least of all can those groups of people engaged upon serving the public, it matters not in what sphere, make their service as effective, as comprehensive, or as expansive as it should be, if they attempt to work alone and without looking towards neighbouring fields where others are labouring to cultivate a harvest that will be common for all. It is in the Divisions with interchange of ideas, of information and with repeated discussion, that well considered plans for the social work of the Community should originate, for they, through the Agencies, should be in possession of the material from which such plans must eventually and gradually take form.

It is to the Divisions that we should be able to look for the initiative in directing the whole trend of social service development, and for the creation of an intelligent public opinion on social problems through constant educational effort. With a well informed public opinion in regard to social work, a knowledge whereof and ~~what~~ wherein it consists, of the training it demands, of the qualities of heart, mind and soul, it exacts from its servants, no one could ever be betrayed into criticising the expenditure of funds for constructive and preventive purposes rather than in direct giving of alms without service. We have on occasion been told that our methods are not of those of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and that undoubtedly may be so, nevertheless, in the records of the life of the saintly Vincent de Paul, that well beloved, wonderful, pioneer figure in service to humanity, standing out as a great light illuminating his own century and casting bright rays across to ours, can be found reference to his insistence upon the value of constructive work and to his care that prevention should be practised. Like other rare spirits of the world, St. Vincent de Paul was far ahead of his time, and the usual opposition which such statesmanship encounters was not wanting three hundred years ago any more than it would be today. Unless there is a determined effort to enlighten public opinion upon social work and to conceive an intelligent plan aiming towards its development, another 25 years will find us precisely where we are today, clinging to the letter but ignoring the spirit of charters long since out of date and thereby paralysing what they were meant to foster because unable to cope with the ever changing circumstances. The unrelentless march of time takes no account

of desires to remain stationary. Nature accepts no refusals to grow. The child must bear his growing pains as best he can and so must nations, institutions and organizations, or become mis-shapen bodies, dwarfed in their usefulness - - the inevitable result of being out of proportion to their surroundings.

That the Directors of Financial Federation share your Executive's views as to the importance of Agencies meeting through the Divisions of the Council, is evidenced by the joint letter addressed last March to the Presidents of all Federation Agencies by the Chairman of that Board and the President of your Council.

If the foregoing seems to express some degree of disappointment your Executive is anxious not to be misunderstood. Never has there been a year when such excellent work has been done by the individual agencies - - energy, devotion and enthusiasm have been apparent throughout. In the Divisions all the reports display a distinct advance over previous years, all are interesting, some, by reason of favorable or unfavorable circumstances are perhaps more encouraging than others, but what it is necessary to emphasize is not that tangible results should always be expected - - for we are not dealing here with an exact science and such would show but a part, and not the larger part, of what can be accomplished in the Divisions, and by them, but that they should never be barren of that attitude of mind that is ever on the alert to seize every excuse, every opportunity that offers, however slim, for developing a broader spirit of co-operation; where the eye of sympathetic interest is never closed and where the problems of one become the topics of study for all. Only in this way and in time can there be natured the sort of soil from which the best things of the universe have sprung.

What of the Council itself? What have the Divisions to expect from it? The answer is relatively both much and little. Little because the Council is less of an originating and more of a co-ordinating body, taking action on the recommendation of any one after satisfying itself that the best interests of all will be served by so doing, - and therein lies the much - the bringing to fruition. That does not mean that the Council is precluded from taking the initiative whenever such may be deemed advisable and in 1924 it has been the originating agency in several matters, such as a preliminary Housing Survey, the establishment of a Personal Service Bureau and an experiment in process of trial at the present moment for the rehabilitation of homeless men. It is a subject of common knowledge that we harbour in our midst housing conditions so bad that it is difficult to allude to them with restraint; repeatedly has our attention been focused upon them and the disgrace admitted. Is it forever to rest there? What are these dark forces which seem to permit the breaking of existing by-laws with impunity, evade all efforts to bring the wrong-doers to book and baffle those who seek the reason why? Here surely is time and place for a Shaftesbury or a Wilberforce! Your Executive while realizing that an exhaustive housing survey would involve a large expenditure of money, which it was not in a position to make, still felt that some useful contribution might be made by way of obtaining definite reliable information in specific instances through its constituent Agencies whose work takes them into the homes of the people. During ten weeks twelve agencies kept a simple record of conditions with which they came into contact in the ordinary round of their duties - - of some 271 dwellings in all; our worst fears were confirmed. When the detailed report of these conditions had been compiled by your Hon-Secretary, Mrs George McDonald, Montreal found that she had reason to congratulate herself on having established through private generosity, an Anti-Tuberculosis and General Health League for the city, and your Executive believed that sanitary housing conditions being a very first essential in a

general health programme, the information it had procured should be transmitted to the League. This was done and the report sent together with an offer of all possible assistance in dealing with conditions so lamentable and so dangerous to the health, physical and moral, of the community.

A Personal Service Bureau was opened in March 1924 under the direction of Miss May Reid, whose time is divided between this Bureau and the Social Service Department of McGill University. The reasons which convinced your Executive that a Personal Service Bureau was of importance to the present and future of social service work in Montreal were twofold; first, the necessity, which was becoming acutely felt, for providing means whereby more and better volunteer service could be made obtainable to the Agencies through the training of volunteers and directing them to the available opportunities for the exercise of that training, having regard to their personal inclinations and capabilities. Second, looking to the future to make provision through these trained volunteers for an extremely valuable source of supply for the Boards of Management of our institutions and organizations -- a provision which your Executive believed it is imperative should be made. The experience of the last few months is that the Personal Service Bureau has done more than make a start towards carrying out these two objects, for it has been proving of assistance to the Council in maintaining a steady piece of educational work, as is obvious from the large number of talks and addresses Miss Reid has given to groups of varied types. When and as Miss Reid finds that she has a volunteer ready to graduate and offer her services to some particular phase of service, it is hoped that every agency will welcome that assistance from her. It is not infrequently given as a reason for not expanding in work that both Boards of Management and Executives are working to the limit of their capacity; here then, in the trained volunteers from the Personal Service Bureau will be found the solution to that difficulty -- the means wherewith to cross that bridge.

Your Executive's latest undertaking, but a few weeks in practice, though the venture had been under consideration for many months is the attempt to rescue from falling into a life of uselessness and confirmed vagrancy those young men who are found just beginning to drift into seeking shelter in the various night refuges of the city. It was felt that there was much ground for believing that someone with the proper qualifications, given the right kind of opportunity through coming into close personal contact with those who appear to offer hopeful material to work upon, might be able to accomplish much in the way of restoring them to being self-respecting, self-supporting citizens, and an asset instead of a liability to the community. It would not have been possible to undertake anything of this nature had your Executive not met with the most generous co-operation on the part of one of its Constituent Agencies, the Protestant House of Industry and Refuge, whose Board has set aside and equipped two eminently suitable rooms in which the cases are lodged during the period of rehabilitation endeavour. Dr. Boucher of the City Health Department has also given courteous assistance through facilitating a method of contact with the transient inmates of the Meurling Refuge. Your Executive is convinced that with such valuable co-operation, it is on the way to bring about a real bit of humanitarian and constructive work of a high order.

During the last week of February 1924, at a request from the Children's Division, your Executive authorized a survey to be made of our Children's institutions and organizations by Mr. C. C. Carstens, Director of the Child Welfare League of America. Mr. Carsten's recommendations and the subsequent action taken upon them by some of the Agencies have been dealt with in the

report of the Children's Division. At the last meeting of your Executive, it was decided, however, that Mr. Carsten's recommendations and advice were too valuable not to merit still further study, and a special sub-committee was appointed for that purpose. A second sub-committee is sitting at present dealing in a very comprehensive manner with the question of standardization of salaries.

Though the Survey, made by Miss Frances O'Neill, of the Montreal Protestant and Non-sectarian relief giving agencies, and at the request of the Family Welfare Association, falls into 1923, the action taken as a result of the Survey belongs to 1924, and it is a matter of the very greatest satisfaction to be able to state that of 13 recommendations contained in Miss O'Neill's report, 100% are being put into effect.

It does not lie within the province of this report to allude to the specific work of its individual constituent agencies, but it may be permissible to make mention of one or two new major developments amongst them. Your Executive would like, in this connection, to point to the extraordinary advance made by the Society for the Protection of Women and Children through its recently developed Legal Aid service. The Society deserves all praise for being willing, in the absence of any Legal Aid Bureau, in Montreal, to extend its work in this respect much beyond the scope which would naturally be required of it in conjunction with its preventive case work. During 1924 Legal Aid was given to 276 cases of which only 149 belong to the ordinary activities of the Society, the remaining 127 rightly coming within the jurisdiction of a Legal Aid Bureau were we fortunate enough to possess one. When application was made for assistance by the 276 cases, in no instance was there enough available money to take even the preliminary steps towards pressing a claim, and yet the Society was able to collect the astounding total sum of \$11,403 for these poor clients, and on every sort of account from the unpaid balance of \$4 on a stove, to \$3,000 in settlement of an estate. The amount of knowledge of the law, of time, conciliation and patience involved in this type of work, an accounting department would be at a loss to appraise.

There is one other new development in the work of a Constituent Agency which cannot be passed over unnoticed. For the first time in Canada, at least to our knowledge, Occupational Therapy has been taken into the homes of the sick. Since last May, the Victorian Order of Nurses, by teaching them some type of handicraft work, has changed the whole aspect of life for those of its patients who suffer from chronic or prolonged illnesses. The effect upon these unfortunate people, doomed heretofore to hours and years of drab dragging days, has mentally been enormous and hence to a certain extent there has also been some physical improvement. Nor have these been the only results, for the Occupational Therapy Department of the Victorian Order has secured arrangements for disposing of the articles made in the short space of time since the work was undertaken. The joy, and especially of the chronic cases, of being able once more to earn something themselves, and to feel again some degree of independence, has been even greater than the pleasure of being able to procure some necessary comfort.

A meeting of the American National Conference of Social ~~xxx~~ Work was held in Toronto in June 1924. Montreal was represented by 76 delegates, 21 of whom were volunteers. Mr. Brierley, an ex-President of the Council and Chairman of the Budget Committee of Financial Federation, was elected to the Executive Committee of the American Association of Community Organization. Mr. Falk, Executive Secretary of your Council, was elected to the

General Council of the American Association of Social Workers, and to the Conference Committee of Organization of Social Forces. Dr. Dawson, a Vice-President of your Council and Mr. G. B. Clark, Executive Secretary of the Family Welfare Association were elected to the Canadian Committee to report next year on an all Canadian Conference on Social Work.

Early in October 1924, the Family Welfare Association called the attention of your Executive to the distress amongst families through lack of employment in the city, and to its inability to cope with this abnormal condition with its ordinary equipment as to staff and space, and from its ordinary financial resources. Consequent upon this your Executive invited all societies interested in this question and in the giving of relief, to attend a meeting to be held at the Board of Trade on October 9th. There was a large response, 25 societies and several members of the clergy of city churches being represented; one of the Vice-Presidents of your Council, Mr. George Lyman, was elected to act as Chairman. After hearing reports, substantially confirming the representations which had been made to your Executive, it was unanimously resolved that this matter of unemployment, being a civic responsibility, the delegates of the societies there assembled should wait upon his Worship the Mayor and the Executive Council of the city to urge that action be taken. On October 17th, the delegation was received by his Worship and a petition presented by Mr. Lyman, who was followed by his Lordship the Bishop of Montréal, the President of the Board of Trade, the President of the Trades and Labor Council, the President of your Council, and other speakers, all urging the authorities to accept the responsibility of devising means for relieving the existing distress. The result it is to be regretted as far as the civic authorities are concerned has been nil, and it is a fact that Montreal stands out as the one city in all Canada refusing to give work or to grant emergency out-door relief to those of its citizens who have only been driven to beg for that relief because work is unobtainable. Montreal however, has the good fortune to number among its citizens men who are ever ready to do and to give, even when the responsibility belongs elsewhere. General McCuaig, Vice-Chairman of the Educational and Recreational Division of your Council and Chairman of the Men's Directory, when civic assistance was refused immediately formed another committee, the Emergency Relief Committee, with an organization which, provided with funds through the generosity of individual subscriptions, is saving the city from the disgrace of leaving little children, men and women, to starve and freeze. It is gratifying to be able to say that your Council's Confidential Exchange has given inestimable assistance to this special Emergency Committee. The year's report from the Exchange reveals a constantly increasing recognition of its great value in the community and under the chairmanship of the very Rev. Dean Carlisle it has been made known to many more of the clergy of the city and the churches are making use of it to a greater extent than formerly.

This report cannot be closed without warm thanks being extended to all those, both executives or volunteers, whether in the Agencies, in the Divisions or in the Council's own executive office, who have given, directly or indirectly, efficient service and loyal support to the Montreal Council of Social Agencies.

No reference has been made to what it is hoped to accomplish during the course of the coming year - to any one thing which, more than another, seems pressing with greater insistence upon the immediate future, or to what may be seen outlined against a more distant horizon. Both the nearer and the further objectives must and will be gained, but whether in 1925 or in later years depends upon forces and circumstances which are incalculable.

Every Agency and every Division will agree that of very first importance is the question of provision for the care of the Protestant and Non-Sectarian feeble minded poor. Is it wise, is it morally right, is it economically sound, is it creditable, is it civilized for this Province to boast a surplus of revenue over expenditure and fail to use even a small portion of that surplus in providing separate institutional or any other care for the feeble minded poor, children and adults, for that their care is, the duty of the state is a subject that long ago passed beyond the debatable stage.

One of our Constituent Agencies, the Mental Hygiene Committee, is carrying on a piece of work in connection with abnormality and the feeble minded that is indispensable to its sister agencies and for which they are deeply grateful, but when all research has been made and the final tests place the patients in this or in that category of feeble mindedness, the Mental Hygiene Committee Experts have arrived up against a solid wall and are at the end of their resources, for there is no Protestant and Non-Sectarian Institution where these pitiable cases can be segregated from the normal to be cared for and protected from harm, and what is equally essential, prevented from being harmful to others.

The field of Social Service is as wide and as varied as is humanity itself: if any part of the ground is allowed to lie fallow for a time, somewhere and in some way the community will suffer. Follow the community further and it becomes the country, the nation or whatever term it is wished to apply to our 9 millions of men and women living scattered over a domain, fair to see, a domain that is compelling in the difficulties which it presents, appealing in the needs in which it abounds, inspiring in its history of struggle hardly fought and gallantly won, exalting in the manifold promises it breathes to the future. Now, as at all times, for the listeners of the world, there is a deep low voice echoing through this vast, challenging land, urging the present, in the light of its own day and of its own needs, to earn for itself the right to its great heritage by giving it yet greater increase.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Elsie Reford.

President.

January 30 th 1925.