

# Letter Book

Mess<sup>t</sup> Patrick Brennan & Joseph Bourdon  
Sir

You are required by the Montreal Fire Society, established under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vict. Chap 8, to furnish me, in my capacity of Secretary and Treasurer, with a detailed and explicit Statement of all monies collected by you, pertaining to the Society, and also to hand over to me at my Office, in Craig Street of this City without delay, whatever amount may now be in your <sup>hands</sup> belonging to the Society.

[By Order] Yours obed<sup>t</sup>  
Montreal. Signed / I P. Sexton  
26 April 1839. Secretary & Treasurer - M.F.S.  
[A copy sent to each]

Government House  
Montreal 23 May 1839

My dear Sir

In transmitting to you the enclosed Extract from the Presentment made by the Grand Jury to the Court of Quarter Sessions after Peace on the 30<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, respecting the formation of Fire Companies, I beg to observe that while His Excellency is fully aware that the Society has hardly yet had time to attend to all the provisions of the Ordinance, he thinks it right

2. to put them in possession of the Observations  
of the Grand Jury

Dear Sir,  
Very sincerely yours  
(Signed) Thos Leigh Goldie

Extract from the presentment of the Grand Jury,  
to the Court of Quarter Sessions in April 1839

"We beg to urge an immediate organisation  
of the Fire Companies, at the want of proper Officers  
and the consequent disorder on some late occasions  
have led to an unnecessary waste of Property"

Certified:  
(Signed) Thos Leigh Goldie  
Civil Secy

Thos Leigh Goldie Esq. Montreal 3 May 1839  
Civil Secy. Sir

Sir

I am directed by Mr. George Moffat  
President of the Montreal Fire Society, to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of yesterdays date, enclosing  
an extract from the presentment of the Grand Jury  
to the Court of Quarter Sessions in April 1839,  
and to state for His Excellency's information, that  
the Society has been hitherto diligently employed  
in forming By-Laws for its future Government;  
and that no unnecessary delay shall be permitted  
to occur, until all the provisions of the Ordinance,  
and more particularly that one adverted to in the  
extract from the presentment of the Grand Jury,  
shall have been carried into effect;

I have the honor to be

Yr.

(Signed) J. P. Sexton  
Secy. M. F. S.

3.  
6<sup>th</sup> June 1839 -

Sir,

I am directed by the Society to intimate to you that in  
future the Collectors, will be required to proceed on the same day  
with, and immediately after the Chimney sweeps: and that  
the Secretary Treasurer is specially ordered to see this duty done  
and report in the event of any negligence or inattention.

I am Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt.

(Signed) J. P. Sexton  
Messrs Cox and Russell Esqrs  
Collectors M. F. S.

Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> June 1839.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acquaint you for the information of the  
Gentlemen composing the Fire Society, that I am under the  
necessity of resigning the situation of Collector, and in  
so doing, request you will convey to those Gentlemen my  
best and warmest acknowledgements for the honor they  
conferred upon me, when they elected me to that office,  
and I further beg you will assure them, that nothing  
short of absolute necessity, could induce me to relinquish  
the Post they were pleased to assign to me; but as  
my motives for this step, should be misconstrued, I beg  
to state briefly my reasons, when I applied for the  
situation of Collector to the Fire Society, I was, under  
the impression, that the office of Collector, would only  
at the most, occupy more than one half my time,  
and therefore thought I could perform the duties of it  
faithfully, subsequent experience, however, has con-  
vinced me, that to discharge the duties properly, it re-  
quires undivided attention, and as I have other, and  
prior duties to fulfil, I find that I cannot devote  
so much of my time to that office, as I could wish,

as it deserves I would therefore much rather at once resign this office, than subject myself to the displeasure of the Society, for a neglect of duty, trusting that the above will be considered as a sufficient reason for my resignation,

I remain  
My Dear Sir,  
respectfully.  
Your Obedt Servt,

To J. Weston Esq<sup>r</sup> 3  
Treasr<sup>r</sup> and Secr<sup>r</sup> 3  
A. S. Society,

J. Cox.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1839,

Dear Sir,

I enclose two letters handed to me yesterday on my return from Upper Canada and which you will have the goodness to lay before the Fire Society at its next meeting. Will you be so obliging as to inform me whether the Reg<sup>r</sup> Law has received the sanction of the Judges and whether there is any day fixed for the next meeting of the Society.

I am Dear Sir  
Your Obedt Servt  
J. Moffatt,

J. Weston Esq<sup>r</sup> 3  
Treasr<sup>r</sup> and Secr<sup>r</sup> 3

Sir,

Montreal 29<sup>th</sup> Augt 1839,

I beg to acquaint you that on the foundation of the Fire Society, I was elected one of the Collectors at which time I was in hopes that I should have been able to perform the duties of that situation, with credit to myself and satisfaction to the Society; however I found that to perform the duties properly, it required undivided attention, at least to a stranger, I was therefore compelled to resign the office, which I did officially, through the Secretary and Treasurer on the 13<sup>th</sup> June last, and a few days afterwards closed my book and account, and handed it over the Secretary, having as it appeared in consequence of the want of funds paid to the Treasurer the sum of £2.17. 6. a shilling, more that what I had collected on my resignation, when I handed in my book &c, I very naturally expected to have been paid what was due me, but contrary to my expectation, nearly three months however elapsed, and although I have applied time after time for a settlement yet have been - as repeatedly put off, with some frivolous excuse; I now respectfully beg to bring the matter under your consideration in the hope that you will authorise the Treasurer to settle my account forthwith, and thereby confer a favor on me.

Sir,

Your Obedient  
Humble Servt,

Honorable G. Moffatt, 3  
President 3  
Fire Society 3  
Montreal 3

James Cox,

Montreal. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept: 1839.

Sir,

Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June last, I have several times called at the office of Mr. Sexton Secretary & Treasurer of the Fire Society for the City of Montreal; to obtain from him the quarterly payment of the Pension most graciously granted to me, by His Excellency the Gov: Gen: by an ordinance passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March last; and of which you are Sir the President. The usual answer received has been that "he had no Money in the Chest to pay me," and finally he once told me, "that he could not pay out money without an order from the president." That order I now solicit, just for one quarter inst for the two, that have now become due from the 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1839, fifty pounds currency, and from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, Fifty Pounds, Currency, being in all One hundred pounds.

I beg to draw your attention to an Extract of the 17<sup>th</sup> Section of the ordinance

2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Cap. 8<sup>th</sup> which is as follows: "provided always, that the said Society shall during the continuance of this Ordinance, pay to the General Director for preventing accidents by fire, for the said City, the sum of two hundred pounds Currency, yearly out of the said Monies; and such allowance shall be paid him by quarterly payments, and in proportion to all other expenses of the said Society."

The Society has already <sup>had</sup> four Collectors, what each may have paid, rest with the Secretary and Treasurer to say; but if reports trumpet out truth, and of them has paid into the Treasures upwards of one hundred pounds,

Permit me to solicit a written Answer to this letter; and as I remain in the County

I will either send for it or call myself at the Fire Society's office next Thursday.

I have the Honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt

Geo. M. Moffatt,  
President  
Fire Society

Pierre DeBoucherville

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Montreal 14<sup>th</sup> October 1839.

Sir,

Having called at the office several times during the last week, to obtain a Settlement of my account, I called again on Friday morning, when I was not a little surprised, by your Clerk handing me the sum of £2. 17. 5, without note or documents, being simply the amount I had loaned the Society four months ago.

I beg therefore to be informed officially, what have been the orders, or decisions, of the Committee of Audit, respecting my case, whether I am, or am not, to receive any thing in the shape of salary.

I am

Sir,

J. P. Seaton Esq;  
Mr. A. Society

your Obedt Servt  
James Cox,

Montreal 29<sup>th</sup> October 1839.

Sir,

This being the day on which the Committee of Audit was to have met, I deferred answering your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, till this moment, as it was my intention to have laid that letter before the Board, as no meeting of the Committee has however taken place this day. I have to acquaint you that the sum of £2. 17. 5, currency was all I was directed by the Committee to hand over to you; and to add my impression that from other tenors of your former letters and other circumstances the Committee were of opinion that the full extent of your claim on the Society was comprehended in that amount. Allow me to suggest the propriety of your furnishing me with a specific statement of your further claim on the Society that I may say it

together with your last letter before the Board of Audit at their next meeting.

Yours very Obedt Servt,  
J. P. Seaton

Mr. James Cox,

Montreal 24<sup>th</sup> October 1839.

Sir,

At a recent meeting of the Montreal Fire Society it was.

Resolved - That the property Protecting and Hose Company be invited to enrol themselves in connection with this Society, as the City Volunteers, Named in the Eighth Article of the Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Cap VIII:-

And being directed to officially communicate the above resolution to the two Companies ~~and~~ I have much pleasure in doing so through you whom I understand to be their Secretary

I am Sir,

Yours very Obedt Servt

Lyman Esquire,  
Saint Paul St.

J. P. Seaton

Montreal, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1839.

Gentlemen,

At a recent meeting of the Montreal Fire Society, I was directed, on their behalf, to bring under your attention, the imminent danger to property and life in this city in the event of Fire at night, resulting from the practice adopted by the Montreal Water Works Company of withholding or turning off the water from the City fire plugs and the Subsidiaries of the Company at that particular period. The danger I am directed to say is so alarming and so obvious as

as to have excited the attention of nearly all classes  
of the Community, and to have particularly accen-  
tuated the deliberations of the Society; - as on  
the occasion of a Tide, the water can never be  
supplied at the required spot till long after it  
might by any possibility be rendered useful  
in preserving the first object of the flames; and  
in distant parts of the town communication can be had  
in time to save adjoining premises.

The Society are in consequence exceedingly  
anxious to know, and respectfully request  
you will inform them, at your earliest convenience,  
if it be the intention of the Water Works Company  
to persevere in the dangerous practice in question  
or if any new and what arrangements have been  
or are about to be determined on, in reference to the  
Supply of Water to the Town and Citizens at  
Night, as the Society may feel themselves  
under the painful necessity of immediately co-  
ming to some Resolution in relation to the  
Circumstances.

I have the Honor to be  
Yours most Obedt Servt

J. P. Section  
Mess<sup>r</sup> Valentine &  
and Hayes Water  
Works Montreal

Montreal 7<sup>th</sup> November 1839  
J. P. Section Esq<sup>r</sup> 3  
Sect<sup>r</sup> & Treas<sup>r</sup> 3  
U. T. S. 3  
Sir

I have the Honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter under date of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst.  
addressed to the proprietors of the Montreal  
Water Works, requesting to ascertain the cause  
of the water being turned off the City, during the  
night?

Please to state for the information of the Society,  
that the necessity obliged the Company  
to do so, inasmuch as the present Engine (was  
the water not so turned off) could not supply  
the City during the day to the extent required.

Please further to state that when the water  
is off the City, the Reservoirs are closed with  
about 200,000 Gallons ready, at five Minutes  
Notice to supply any part of the City, and that  
the want of water for the first half hour at the late  
part of Hospital Street was owing to the neglect  
of the Police as arrangements had been made  
with the Superintendent that in the event of  
an alarm of fire, the Policeman stationed near  
the works in Hospital Street, should notify  
the foreman by ringing the Bell which is placed  
at the Gate for that particular purpose; this duty  
he neglected to perform and the circumstance  
was duly reported by me to the Superintendent  
who gave directions that in future this duty should  
be strictly attended to;

The Company are now erecting a new Engine  
which will be capable of pumping into the City  
over 50,000 Gallons per hour and which they hope  
will be in operation by the close of the year, after  
which

which the water will be on day and night, and  
will obviate any future difficulty.

The Company at some time beg to call the  
attention of the Fire Society to a new and improved  
Fire plug placed opposite their works Notre-Dame  
Street, which will work winter as well as summer  
without being effected by the frost. the cost of  
which will not exceed £15- and they earnestly  
call the attention of the Fire Society to devise  
some means to increase the number of fire plugs,  
independent of those the Company are obliged  
to furnish.

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Yours Most Obedient Servt

(Signed) M. L. Hayes.  
for M. W. Company

Montreal February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1840

Sir,

As Churchwardens of this Parish, we request  
you will immediately cause the family of Davis to move  
out of the Engine House in Little Saint James Street;  
it having been reported to us that conduct most  
improper is carried on there.

If you have not the power to do so, let us  
know immediately as we shall then apply to the  
Police.

We are Sir

Your Obedt Servts  
Arthur Ross  
Joseph Jones.

Montreal 6<sup>th</sup> February 1840.

Gentlemen

A letter from you to Mr. Beaumont dated  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst. complaining of the misconduct of the  
family of Davis, and requiring their removal from  
the Engine House - in which they at present reside,  
having been placed before the Committee of Management,  
of the Montreal Fire Society last Evening. I am directed  
to acquaint you that the Committee, concurred in opinion  
with you as to the propriety of the immediate removal  
of the family, from the premises, and have ordered  
them to leave forthwith.

I am also directed to state, that should  
they not comply with the order given, as the process  
of Ejectment necessary to be adopted by the Fire Society  
would prove dilatory, the Committee respectfully  
suggest the propriety of your furnishing the information  
of misconduct in your possession to the Police, and  
causing to act in the matter, as intimated in your letter.

Yours the Honor to be Gentlemen  
Arthur Ross & Joseph Jones Esqrs Your Obedt Servt  
Churchwardens J. P. Lester Secy M. W. S.

Montreal December 11<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,

The delay which has taken place with reference to your official letter of Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> requires an apology at my hands. The fact is, it was my intention to attend to the matter immediately, but being excessively occupied in business, through inadvertance it entirely escaped my notice.

I have now the pleasure to communicate the sentiments of our Committee.

The arrangement proposed cannot fail to be highly satisfactory to us, if the conditions we think essential, meet your requirements.

Before giving a definite answer to your query, perhaps you will be good enough to afford us information upon the several points suggested by

With the internal management of our Com<sup>P</sup> be left to ourselves.

Will the Montreal Fire Society equip the requisite number of individuals to form the Co. in two divisions as suggested?

Will funds be furnished to defray our necessary expenses?

These questions once settled to our satisfaction, the Muni<sup>tie</sup>s will be very easily arranged in the intervals I am.

Respectfully,

You ob<sup>t</sup> Mr. Servt

(Signed) Henry Lyman  
Sec<sup>d</sup> M. P. P. Fire Co.

Montreal 19<sup>th</sup> February 1840,

Sir,

Agreeably to your suggestion of yesterday, I beg to acquaint you in writing that in answer to your inquiries "Will the internal management of our Co. (the P. P. Fire Society) be left to us" &c &c &c Will the Montreal Fire Society equip the requisite no<sup>m</sup> of individuals to form the Company in two divisions as suggested?" and will funds be furnished to defray our necessary expenses? I have been directed to state, that the internal management of the P. P. Co. will be left wholly to themselves; but that the existing state of the funds of the Montreal Fire Society, it is requested will not allow them to promise either of the objects comprehended in the other two questions. We have explained in communication with you the Society anticipate an early accession to their funds, and I have no doubt though not officially authorized to promise anything, that when possessed of means they will be happy to contribute or furnish them liberally and in proportion to the acknowledged ability of the P. P. Fire Society.

I remain Sir,

Your very Ob<sup>t</sup>  
Mr. Servt.

Henry Lyman Esq<sup>r</sup> (Signed) J. P. S<sup>r</sup> (Signed)

(Signed) George Green (Signed)  
M. B. F. (Signed)

To

J. P. Weston Esq<sup>r</sup>  
S<sup>r</sup> Ch<sup>r</sup> P.  
M. P. Society

Montreal 21<sup>st</sup> April 1840

*John*

At a recent Meeting of the Members of the  
Montreal Fire Society, it was directed to forward  
the enclosed memorandum to His Excellency the  
Governor in Chief; and —————— made adequate  
to its expenditure, to solicit that the prayers of the  
Petitioners, brought as early as possible under  
His Excellency's consideration.

I have the Honor

R. Daly Equine  
Barrie Tech

To the Right Honorable Charles Poulett Thomas,  
One of Her Majestys Privy Council Governor  
and General of British North America &c  
F. G.

The Memoirs of the President and members of the  
Association, Established by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria, Cap'd  
as the Montreal Fire Society,

Most Respectfully, Represents,

That by the Ordinance 30. Geo. 3. Cap  
8 the Overseer to prevent Accidents by Fire in the  
City of Montreal whose Office is abolished and  
whose Duties are now merged in those of your  
Almonerists, was commanded to cause the  
Chimneys of poor persons in this Town and Suburbs to  
be swept gratis; and that until the formation of  
the Montreal Fire Society he received therefor out of  
the Civil funds of the Province as compensation  
an annual Allowance of Sixty Pounds per Annum.

= 200 =

That by the Ordinance constituting the  
Society composed by your Abolitionists the said  
Obligation is imposed on them; that they have  
performed the duty to be done since their Establish-  
ment, that is for the last twelve months,  
more regularly and efficiently than ever it  
had therefore been performed; and are in consequence  
entitled, they respectfully conceive, to be entitled  
to the allowance of Sixty Pounds per annum  
granted during the continuance of his Office,  
to the Overseer for preventing accidents by Fire  
in this City, D. DeBoucherville Esquire; more  
particularly as by the Ordinance they are  
Expressly

expressly authorized to receive "all the emoluments and allowances" to which previously to the passing of that late law he was in any way entitled; and that the funds in their possession are applied to purposes of Public utility and not of private emoluments wherefore your Memorialists pray  
that your Excellency be graciously pleased  
for the reasons aforesaid, to order the payment  
to them of the said annual Allowance  
of Sixty Pounds per Annum and Young  
Memorialists from the

Sir,

Montreal 5 May 1840

At a Meeting of the Montreal Fin Society held at its Office St Gabriel Street, last Evening I was directed to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, of the retirement from the Society, by resignation, of S J McCord and Robert Armour Leguine; and to communicate a desire on the part of the Meeting that the Society be permitted to suggest the names of their successors

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt Servt  
I. G. Lupton

Hon W Daly Esqr  
Civl Secretary  
for the Fin Socy

Memoir of the Montreal Fire Society presented to  
His Excellency The Right Honourable G. P. Thomson,  
Governor General, &c.

To the Right Honourable Charles  
Parrat Thomson, Governor General  
40 40 8

The Memoir of the President and members  
of the Montreal Fire Society.

Respectfully Represents,

That your Society established by the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vict. Chap. 8. published on the second day  
of March 1839, was by fortuitous circumstances  
beyond the control of the members of the institution  
unable to go into effective operation till the latter  
part of the following month of April.

That in addition to the duties imposed  
on the Overseer for the prevention of accidents  
by fire by the Ordinances 17 Geo. 3 Cap B and 30<sup>th</sup> of  
the same Reign Cap 7 and the Provincial Statute  
59 Geo 3 Cap 8. your Society was enjoined by law  
to establish as many Companies of Firemen  
as there were engines in the City Exclusively  
of a Company of Sixty Volunteers required to  
be present and assist at Fires under the imme-  
diate direction of the Society. That to effect  
all this no other funds were placed at the dis-  
posal of your Society than the proceeds  
arising from the Seizing of the Chimneys  
throughout the City and Suburbs which  
had previously been paid to the Overseer in  
consideration of his performing certain

duties

duties specified in the Ordinances and Statute above  
alluded to the most important of which was to visit and  
inspect every house in his District once in every three  
months - a duty which it is notorious had been wholly  
and altogether neglected by the recent "Overseer" from the  
period of his appointment till the date of his deposition  
of Office. Yet out of these funds so inadequate to their  
contemplated application, thus placed at the  
disposal of your Society the are required by the  
Ordinance to pay to the late Overseer by Quarterly  
Payments in preference to all other expenses of the  
Society an allowance of £200. Currency per annum.  
That your Society with an annually diminished income  
of £200. has thus been required to perform more compre-  
hensive duties and incur heavier expences than had  
ever been assigned to or exacted from the Overseer  
for preventing accidents by fire.

Your Colonists would therefore  
most respectfully, would suggest the propriety of  
their being relieved from the payment of the above  
annual allowance in any legislative enactment  
that it may be deemed expedient hereafter to have  
passed in relation to this Society.

That at the time of the formation of your  
Society of Eight Engines in the City of Montreal that  
was not one in effective order, or whose services can be  
relied in the event of a fire. That again Society of much  
expense caused six of the least injured of those Engines  
to be put in as good working condition as your  
Societies funds admitted of and to be supplied with  
the necessary hose buckets and other essential  
apparatus, and with no inconsiderable difficulty  
enlisted Companies of active and skilful men to  
work them and trust in the event of a fire their effec-  
tive services may be relied on. That the Engines are not  
yet however in a perfect condition and must continue

so

so till the funds of the Society are augmented.  
That your Society also establishes  
a rigid and periodical System of Inspection  
to the beneficial effects of which the escape of  
the City from even a Solitary accident by  
fire during the past winter, is no doubt attri-  
butable, at least in part, to the gross and unpardonable  
neglect of that duty the extensive and ruinous  
Conflagrations of preceding years, indisputably  
prove.

That your Society regret the exertions  
have been confined and their utility diminished  
by the inadequacy of the funds at their disposal  
destructively impaired as those funds are by the  
decision granted to the late "Quenard" and regret to  
state that if their revenue be not increased it  
will not be possible either to keep the City  
Engines in repair, occasionally procure new  
ones, or preserve the existence of the Fire  
Companies their members all requiring proper  
defensive dress.

Your Society most respectfully  
represent that the existing laws abounds with  
other provisions as defective as that herein  
already referred to; and will briefly advert to  
two of those I have ascertained by  
experience to be of the greatest magnitude.

The periods of which the Chimneys  
are required to be swept are unnecessarily frequent  
if the duty be performed in a proper manner &  
the provision occasions both unnecessary  
inconvenience to the Public and expense to  
the Society. The Regulation requiring Housekeepers  
to keep buckets, hatchet and fire poles is publicly  
unreasonable and practically inoperative. The  
Society being required to procure for each house

all

these and other more useful articles attached to each Engine.

Your Memorialists further respectfully submit  
that the expenses of your Society to be of effective  
public utility the estimate as follows:

Sum annually required for the Occasional Purchase of New Engines	£ 250. 0. 0
Repair of those in use and repair of hose buckets and other apparatus	

Wages of a Foreman to visit the Engines and put them in Order after Fires	100. 0. 0
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Annual Allowance for water at fires	125. 0. 0
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Secretary and Treasurer's Salary	200. 0. 0
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Collecting	125. 0. 0
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Chimney Sweepers and Materials	400. 0. 0
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Office rent and Furniture	50. 0. 0
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Painting and Stationary	50. 0. 0
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Salary of Inspector	100. 0. 0
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Amount required to organize Fire Companies and to reward persons for Meritorious Services at fires	475. 0. 0
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Allowance to one retired Quenard if to be paid out of the funds of the Society	200. 0. 0
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£ 2225. 0. 0

The

The probable revenue of the Society this year will not amount to £1000. And your Memorialists fully concurring in the Opinion of the Quebec Fire Society as expressed in their Petition now before Your Excellency as to the mode in which the Society's income might be increased do respectfully recommend to Your Excellency's consideration the expediency of its adoption, and in consequence that provision be made, that in view of the chimney money now paid to the Society by tenants there be paid the sum of 10/- for each and every chimney whether used or not in each chimney in every house workshop store or other building in the Town or Suburb of all tenures. That the tax be paid by the Proprietors of houses &c and not by their tenants as heretofore with a provision however that in the event of the absence of any proprietor from this City or any other sufficient cause, the tenant be liable to pay the said tax and deduct the same from his rent. That the tax be made payable semiannually in the course of the Month of May and November of each year to the Secretary Treasurer or Collector of the Society; and in consideration of it that the Public be exonerated from the necessity of providing themselves with brackets hatchets and fire poles.

That when it is taken into consideration that by payment of the above trifling tax the Public will be exempted from both Chimney and Bucket Money, secured from the frequent contributions hitherto demanded of them to assist in forming fire companies and procuring Engines, we will enjoy a greater degree of protection from accidents by fire than has hitherto been experienced.

Your

Yours Memorialists cannot refrain from feeling that so far from the impositions of the Tax being esteemed unreasonable or oppressive it will be most cheerfully and satisfactory regarded.

Your Society are also of opinion that all Fire Assurance Companies established in this City and all agencies of similar institutions established elsewhere should be required to contribute to the funds of the Society by an annual payment to the of 1% & cent on the amount of premiums to receive and that in the course of the month of January of each year they be bound to furnish the Society with a return of such Premiums in order that it may be ascertained what amount the Society will be entitled to receive at their hands.

Your Society would respectfully recommend that at all fires or alarms of Fire the City Police and Constables should become the officers of the Society bound to act under their superintendance and direction in the same manner and under the like observations as the special Fire officers of the Society.

Finally your Society, in desirous of bringing under your Excellency's consideration the fact that the proceedings are now regulated by no less than four legislative enactments the Ordinance 17 Geo 3 C. 13 that of the 30<sup>th</sup> Geo 3 Chap 7, the Provincial Statute 59<sup>th</sup> Geo 3. C. 8, and the ordinance 2 Vict Cap 8. That certain parts of all with the last of these being suspended, others amended, and some in force full force ambiguity is often complained of as to the particular provisions now in operation.

Therefore, our Society in consequence respectfully suggest the propriety of suspending the two first Ordinances and the Statute and of reenacting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria by a comprehensive measure which while it retains all the useful provisions of the old law will

will likewise embody the several improvements suggested by the experience of your Society.

Your Memorialists respectfully submit for your Excellency's consideration the subjacent detail of the Provisions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Cap 8 they desire to have amended as well as a brief outline of the nature of the Amendments and additions in their opinion most desirable

### Preamble to repeal

Ordinance 7 Geo 3 C-13.

30 Geo 3 C-7.

53 Geo 3 C-8.

2 Vict C-8.

### And to amend

Section 2<sup>nd</sup> The Power and authority vested in former Officers now vested in the Fire Society by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section of 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria to be continued unaltered as herein given.

3<sup>rd</sup> Relating to the appointment of President and Secretary Treasurer from the same as in 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria of amended Statute with a provision added for the mode of supplying vacancies occasioned by the death, resignation or continued absence of members of the Society.

4<sup>th</sup> To frame By-Laws &c. to be contained as in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section of the amended Ordinance, with the exception of the mode of publishing the notice of By-Laws see 5.

5<sup>th</sup> Provides for the publication to be as in corresponding Sections of amended act with a provision that the be published in English only in an English newspaper and in French only in a French newspaper

Newspaper

Newspaper and that hereafter the Society may publish their By-Laws & Notices Requirements and all other matters in whatever paper they deem fit.

6<sup>th</sup> Section. Provides for the salary of the Secretary Treasurer, to be the same as in amended Ordinance

7<sup>th</sup> Society to divide the City into wards and to appoint Fire Companies of 50 men to each the same as in amended Ordinance.

8<sup>th</sup> Provides for the appointment of a company of 60 volunteers, no alteration.

9<sup>th</sup> Majority of members to decide questions &c. no alteration.

10<sup>th</sup> The Tenth Section of the Ordinance proposed to be amended empowers the Society to assist from out of its funds any person in its employ injured at fires &c. It would be requisite to further empower them to compensate by such pay wages or reward as they should think proper the firemen and others in their service else efficient companies cannot be kept up.

The 11. and 12. Sections require no alteration.

13<sup>th</sup> In addition to the provisions of the Sections in the amended Act it is of imperative necessity that the City Police and Constable, should at all fires & alarms of fires be made the Officers of the Society, and be necessitated to act under the Society's direction and control, in the same manner and under the like obligations as the special <sup>Police</sup> Officers of the Society.

11<sup>th</sup>

Sect' 14. requires no alteration.

" 15. The corresponding Section of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vict. Cap 8, requires the Members to visit their respective wards every three months this duty ought to be performed by a public Inspector whom the Society requires and shall appoint or by the Secretary Treasurer of the Society whom they shall be empowered to appoint to that office (this is hereafter provided for in Section 26.)

" 16 — Exempts the Secretary Treasurer from Militia duty. No alteration required.

" 17 — Relates to the funds Recommended to be rescinded and, in lieu thereof, That all proprietors of Houses, Workshops, Stores or other Buildings in the Town and suburbs of Montreal, do pay per Currency £2 per year for each and every Chimney fire thereon, whether in use or not or whether the house Workshop store or other Building be occupied or not. That said funds so to be paid to the Society be collected semi-annually in the months of May and November of each year and be available to the said Society for its general purposes and expenditure, That the said funds be paid to the Secretary Treasurer of the Society or the Collector and all persons neglecting to pay to be sued in the manner hereinafter directed.

" 18 — Society to employ one or more Collectors No alteration necessary.

" 19 — The 19<sup>th</sup> Section of the Ordinance to be amended, providing for the collection of monies for the sweeping of the Chimneys is superseded by the 17<sup>th</sup> Section herein recommended.

Sect' 20 — Provides for the quarterly making up of the accounts and their publication annually in the English and French Languages. Amendment required as to Section 5.

" 21 — This Section in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Cap 8 to be rescinded and due to the following effect substituted. That the Town shall cause to be swept and scraped as effectually as possible at least once in every three months between the 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> November of each year at least twice in every month during the remaining period of the year all chimneys actually used in the Town and suburbs of Montreal by capable and experienced sweeps; and each and every Proprietor or occupier of a house store workshop or other building who shall oppose the sweeping of any chimney actually used shall incur for each refusal a fine of 5/- £0 and if such chimney or chimneys after such refusal shall take fire the owner shall thereby incur a further fine of 40/- £0.

" 22 — Prosecutions for the tax imposed by the 17<sup>th</sup> Section of this Ordinance when neglected to be paid and all other prosecutions pursuant to this Ordinance to be instituted in the manner and before the Tribunal mentioned in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Section of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Cap 8. but the Justices to be specially authorized to award costs on all prosecutions before them.

" 23 — The 23<sup>rd</sup> Section of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vict. Cap 8 declaring that all penalties and fines shall form part of the funds of the Society requires no alteration.

" 24 — The 24<sup>th</sup> Section of the Second Victoria Cap 8 to be rescinded inasmuch as no power will now

now have to pay the Society the tax being exacted  
from proprietors not tenants,

Sect 25 - all actions to be instituted within three months  
no alteration required.

" 26 To provide for the appointment of a Public  
Inspector by the Society to visit every house  
or other Building in the said City at least  
once in every six months and as many times  
often as and at what times as he may think proper  
and to do the duties assigned to him the overseer  
or inspector of Chimneys of the 4<sup>th</sup> section of this  
Gez. Chap. 8. Penalty of 5/- to refuse admitting him  
that the Office of Secretary Treasurer be not  
incompatible with Inspector; and that the  
Society may appoint its Secretary and Treasurer  
to that office if it deem fit. Also that the Society  
be authorized to grant out of its funds such  
allowance to him for his services as may be  
deemed fit and reasonable and in the event  
of the appointment of the Secretary Treasurer  
that it do not prevent him from giving evidence  
in many prosecutions.

The above comprises all the  
sections in the 2<sup>d</sup> Vict. Chap. 8. to be affected  
by the required amendments to following  
Provisions are respectfully recommended to  
be added in the new Ordinance -

Sect 27. That all Fire assured Companies  
established in this City and all agencies  
of similar institutions elsewhere estab-  
lished do annually pay as a contribution  
to the funds of the Society 1/4 cent on

the

the amount of Premiums, they receive and that  
all such Fire assured Companies & Agencies  
be held to tender to the Secretary Treasurer of the  
Society, in the course of the month of January of each  
year an annual return of the said Premiums to deter-  
mine the amount payable to the Society.

Sect 28 - That in Order to ascertain in a more correct manner  
the actual number of Chimneys & Flues or other  
fire places which belong or form any Public Edifice  
dwelling house Workshop or any other Building  
whatever and for which proprietors thereof  
shall be bound to pay such tax and which  
shall be situated within the limits of the City  
it should be the duty of the Secretary Treasurer  
between the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May and the 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
August in each and every year should such  
changes have taken place in the proprietorship  
of real estate, as in the opinion of the Society should  
or would preclude the propriety of amending  
the last years books, to make a personal visit  
and examination of all the aforesaid <sup>Public</sup> Edifices,  
Dwelling houses Workshops or other Building  
and attend to make and prepare a list or  
Roll of all such Public Edifices, Dwelling houses  
of in which any Chimney or other fire places may be  
found to exist and to state the Number of Flues in  
such chimneys or fire places and upon which flat  
they are constructed also the Names of the property  
Tenants or other Occupiers of such Public Edifices,  
Dwellings &c and the name of the street or part of the City  
in which the same may be situated and said  
list or Roll to be certified by the Secretary Treasurer  
and deposited in the office of the Clerk of the peace  
on the first day of September following such visit of  
which said Deposite shall give Notice immediately

in one or more newspapers in both languages up to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the next ensuing Court of Quarter Sessions which Notice shall state that on the first day of the ensuing Term of Quarter Sessions Application shall be made to the Justices for the Confirmation and Homologation of the said List or rolls. And the same having been so confirmed and homologated by the said Justices during the said Term shall be considered and adjudged as sufficient and legal proof of all matters which may relate to the prosecutions or recoveries of any rate or tax which are imposed with respect to any Chimney Flue of a Chimney or other Fire place provided Always that if any person shall think himself aggrieved by reason of any Matter or thing entered in the said List or rolls he shall be held to apply to the said Justices during the said Term by means of Summon= =many Petition and thereupon the said Justices shall proceed to make such equitable Orders as the case may require.

Sect 29 - No hay, or straw to be kept in a house or street rods in any yard in the City and Suburbs; and no ashes placed on a wooden crossel in any house out house or premises in the said City & Suburbs under a penalty of 20/- for each offence of the hay or straw.

Sect 30 - No more than 25<sup>lb</sup> of Gunpowder to be kept at any one time in any house lodging stable or out house in the City or Suburbs under a penalty of £5/- for each offence and the forfeiture of the powder.

or wooden floor without leaving 6 inches clear between the pipe and the partition or floor, the pipe to be surrounded with stone or a sheet of iron nailed to such partition, or floor under a penalty of 20/-

Dec 32 - All houses hereafter to be built of either stone or brick in either Town or Suburbs of Montreal, to have the Gable ends raised 3 feet higher than the roof and projecting out far enough at the eaves to prevent their falling on an adjoining house under a penalty to the owner of £10. and to the Builder £5-

" 33 - Every roof in the City and Suburbs covered with with boards or shingles shall be either whitewashed or painted with good oil paint or Mineral tar; and that each and every such roof be hereafter whitewashed at least once in every 12 months or painted with good oil paint or Mineral tar, at least once in every three years from the time it was so last whitewashed or painted under a penalty of £2. against each and every Proprietor continuing, and a further penalty of £5/- per day for each and every day after conviction of the said first Offence that the said roof so remain unwhitewashed or unpainted.

Govt House  
Montreal 9<sup>th</sup> May 1840

Gentlemen,

I have laid before the Governor General your application for the annual allowance of £60 formerly made to the "Overseer to prevent Accidents by Fire," on condition of having the Chimneys of the Poor swept & rectified, a duty which has now devolved on the Fire Society. On reply I am directed by His Excellency to inform you that in reference to the Ordinance constituting the present Society it appears to be passed at the Model of the act by the provincial Legislature in 1829, for the same purpose, and that to the Society thereby established the annual allowance of £60. a year was not granted.

Under these circumstances and adverting to the fact that the Ordinance does not provide for nor allude to the allowance in question, His Excellency considers that it was not the intention of the Governor and Special Council to renew it, but to place the present Fire Society in the same position only as the similar Society established in 1829.

This Excellency has accordingly despatched me to inform you that he cannot decide to your present application.

Have the Honor to be  
Gentlemen

Yours Obedt Servt

O. Collardock  
Chief Secretary,

Govt House  
Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> May 1840

Sir

I am commanded by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of the remonstrance from the Montreal Fire Society soliciting the introduction into the Special Council of an ordinance to direct that under which the Society is at present constituted I am to inform you that after fully considering the subject His Excellency does not think it right at present to propose an ordinance of the nature of that solicited by the Society.

Have the Honor to be

Sir

Yours Obedt Servt

O. Collardock  
Chief Secy

Govt House  
Montreal 15<sup>th</sup> May 1840

Sir

I having laid before the Governor General your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst received on the 12<sup>th</sup> June directed by His Excellency to acquaint you in reply for the information of the Montreal Fire Society that he will be happy to receive from them the names of the persons they would propose as successors to Messrs Moffatt, McCord, and Arrowsmith who have retired from the Society.

Have the Honor to be  
Sir

Yours Obedt Servt  
O. Collardock  
Chief Secy

The following letter from Messrs Dunning & Senior  
Merchants of this City to the Governor General  
having been on the 5<sup>th</sup> June transmitted to the  
Superintendent of Police and by him communica-  
ted to the Secretary Treasurer of this Society  
induced an immediate visit to the premises  
alluded to in the letter; the report which follows  
is made on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the removal of the powder  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> June as elsewhere narrated in the  
Book of the Society.

To His Excellency,  
The Right Honourable G. P. Thompson  
Governor General etc.  
May it please your Excellency,

Occurring, it a matter of most serious  
importance to take the liberty of addressing your  
Excellency at once (knowing that our unpaid  
Magistrates would have trouble themselves  
about the matter) informing you that having  
occasion to send an Officer to the Magazine  
for a few casks of Gunpowder we thought  
proper to send one of our Clerks also to ascer-  
tain our Stock on hand. He reports that the  
Gunpowder instead of being stored in a sub-  
stantial stone house (with lightning con-  
ductors) as we expected would have been  
(the case) is stored in a large wooden  
House unprotected either in one way or other  
and there are at least Two Thousand Barrels  
of twenty five pounds each Dwelling houses  
all around and some within about 200 yards  
from this place store kept lightning and  
doubt

does not part of the City would be destroyed by a  
gunpowder's early application to them.

We have the honor to be  
Your Excellency Ob't Servt  
Dunning & Senior,

Saint Joseph St.  
Montreal 4<sup>th</sup> June 1840

Sir,

A letter from Messrs Dunning and Senior to His  
Excellency respecting the Powder Depository in the  
vicinity of this City having been yesterday transmis-  
sed to the Superintendent of Police, its contents  
been by him immediately communicated to the  
Secretary of the Montreal Vic. Society; and they  
both proceeded without delay to the magazine  
referred to, and now respectfully submit, the  
result of their visit and research, for the considera-  
tion of His Excellency.

At Cote Sainte Catherine about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  
Mile beyond the City limits, a Mr. Eastman  
Provost, has erected a stone Magazine for the  
reception of the Powder imported by the Merchants  
of this City and prohibited by the 17<sup>th</sup> Geo 3 Cap 13 -  
from being stored within its limits. The ground story  
of the magazine is fire proof and large enough  
to hold about 1000 or 1500 barrels of Gunpowder.  
the upper story is not fire proof but tolerably  
secure the roof being covered with tin and it may  
be liable to certain fire from 800 to 1000 barrels. The  
magazine has attached to it an electric conductor  
leading, door on the rear of the building, yet strange  
to record not a grain of powder is stored within  
its walls. The building being quite empty does  
wonder.

Wooden shed constructed immediately in the rear  
and against the Magazine there are deposited  
about 1000 barrels of Gunpowder this shed  
is most insecurely and dangerously placed.  
The Electric Conductor already referred to  
passes through it and amid the kegs of Gun-  
powder, and in consequence although a protection  
to the Magazine indisputably increases the  
securing, hazard of the shed in addition to  
which another shed has been erected on the  
adjoining premises contiguous to and in some  
places actually touching that in which is  
the Gunpowder. The undersigned regret to  
report that the latter shed from its appearance  
and the fragments of lime yet remaining in it  
on the occasion of their visit yesterday  
has recently contained unslacked lime.  
Both the Magazine and shed are within  
about 20 yards of a stone and apparently  
hitherto unoccupied dwelling house.

On examination about 2000 casks more  
of Gunpowder were found in a wooden building  
formerly a Dwellinghouse and having a  
Chimney therein situated on the same road  
as the Magazine but about 500 yards  
separated from it to the City. This Building  
also the property of Mr. Provost is equally  
unsafe as the shed for the purpose to which  
it is appropriated, its roof being entirely  
bare being a stable containing loose hay  
with a few feet of it and its ceiling situated  
within about 30 yards of an inhabited house  
the sparks from the Chimney of which  
may at any time set it or the stable  
attached to it on fire. The undersigned further  
respectfully submit that the Coopers

tools

tools found in both the Dwelling house and shed  
and used there without doubt for the purpose of  
unloading and repairing the barrels, were all of  
the ordinary description and composed partly  
of steel & iron. In conclusion the undersigned  
cannot represent the expression of their feelings  
that no lamentable and extensively ruinous  
accident has hitherto occurred from the Culpable  
negligence and temerity of Mr. Provost and  
they are deeply pained to add that the Attorney  
being without the City limits the powder can  
not be seized and confiscated under the  
existing without the aid of a legislative  
provision to meet the exigency of the Case,  
they are apprehensive no other proceeding than  
than an Indictment for a Public Misdemeanor  
at present lie directed against Mr. Provost and the  
immense danger and importance of the subject will  
therefore justify them in this day laying this info  
before the Executive. They enclose, as a Statement from  
Mr. Provost of the quantity of Powder which  
according to the best of his belief is at present  
contained in his house and shed the desire of  
obtaining which prevented the earlier  
transmission of this report.

We have the honor to be  
Sir

Your &c

Montreal / June 1840 / Signed J. G. Clark

Yappintor of the

J. J. Taylor  
Secretary M. P. P.

Montreal 25<sup>th</sup> June 1840

Sir,

It having been officially reported to the  
Montreal Fire Board, that the South East Chimney  
of th house at present in your occupation is in a  
defective condition, contrary to the Bye laws of the  
Institution. I have to communicate, that unless the  
same be immediately repaired, proceedings will  
be instituted against you, and the penalty of the  
present defective state of the Chimney exacted.

I am Sir

Very Obedtly Yours

(Signed) J H Lepson,

J G Dinning Esq