

FEARS SPIES MIGHT SECURE PASSPORTS

**Mayor Martin Declares That
These Will Be Sparingly
Issued in Future**

POLICE TO HAVE RIFLES

**Constables Guarding Water
Works on Same Footing
as Militia—Revolvers
Not Sufficient**

"I want to do my share of the watch-dog work," said Mayor Martin yesterday afternoon in reference to his decision not to sign any more passports without having full references as to the personality of the applicant.

Since the declaration of hostilities his Worship has signed fully one hundred of these documents for foreign ports and for the United States.

"What I desire to prevent," said Mayor Martin, "is the activity of spies in Montreal during the present war, and as a matter of prudence I have decided from today not to sign any passport for any person whatsoever unless the applicant is known to me personally or is recommended by responsible persons. This measure, as will be seen, has for its object to prevent the departure for a foreign land of individuals who might have collected information here for the benefit of a power at present at war with England."

Mayor Martin went on to say that too many were asking for passports, and that he had already refused fifteen on account of lack of precise information as to the personality and the intentions of those applying, and none of them had returned.

"No more passports will be signed by me," said Mayor Martin, "unless I am assured by the proper credentials that everything is regular."

It is quite a common procedure for Montrealers intending to travel abroad to get a passport from the Mayor of the city attesting their citizenship. In future, however, these official documents bearing the signature of his Worship and the seal of the corporation will be issued with much greater prudence.

The position taken by Mayor Martin is that if so much precaution is taken within the city in the shape of guard duty and special patrol service for the protection of property it is equally important to see that no one leaves Montreal with information of a kind that would be useful in a foreign port if any design were harbored against the city.

RIFLES FOR POLICE

Mayor Martin is still of the opinion that the federal authorities should have helped the city to protect the water works system, but as the minister of militia refused to do this, the city police have been utilized. As the police, however, are armed with revolvers only, Mayor Martin yesterday gave instructions that they be supplied with rifles and thus put on the same footing as the militia for this special guard duty.

"We must protect the city," said Mayor Martin, "and the water works as well. So anyone who attempts to interfere had better beware."

The atmosphere of war at the City Hall is felt as much as anywhere else in Montreal. The royal coat of arms surmounted by the flags of the three allied powers, representing England, France and Russia, are placed prominent over the doorway leading to the mayoral chamber, and also over the door leading to the offices of the Board of Control.

The daily war talks at the City Hall are another feature indulged in both by aldermen and visitors. Yesterday a very unusual scene was witnessed from the civic windows of a sergeant drilling a squad of raw recruits on the Champ de Mars. On an August morning when all able-bodied men were supposed to be at work it looked like business.