

Selecting Jurors.

The mayor, reeve, the city, town, village or township clerk, and the assessor or assessors, if there be more than one of the respective towns, villages or townships in Ontario are *ex-officio* the selectors of jurors for every township and village, and for each ward of every such city or town. They are required to assemble annually on the 10th day of October, at the place where the meetings of the council of the municipality are usually held, or at such other place within the municipality as may, for that purpose, be appointed by the head of such municipal corporation.

Before entering upon the performance of their duties the selectors are required to make and subscribe before a justice of the peace an oath or affirmation, as follows: I, A. B., do swear (or affirm as the case may be), that I will truly, faithfully and impartially, without fear, favor or affection, and to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duty of a selector of jurors, and will select from the proper lists the requisite number of the most fit and proper persons to serve as jurors for the year of our Lord 18 . So help me God.

* * *

The manner of the selection is as follows: First, to write down on one or more sheets of paper twice as many names of persons appearing by the voters' list or assessment roll to be possessed of the requisite property qualifications or otherwise duly qualified to serve on juries, as have been required by the county selectors to be selected and returned from the township, village or wards of the municipality. The clerk is required to produce for the information of the selectors, the proper voters' list and assessment roll. In selecting the names for the list mentioned, the selectors are required to proceed from letter to letter in alphabetical order, and write down the names consecutively of all those persons qualified to serve on juries, and not exempt by law, and at each subsequent annual meeting the selectors shall begin at the letter next to that at which they left off the preceding year, and so on until they have gone through all the letters of the alphabet, when they again begin with the letter A. When the selectors have obtained the names of a sufficient number of duly qualified persons, and before they have exhausted the entire number of those qualified in any other letter, they are required at the next annual selection to commence at the beginning of such letter, but shall not select from the names any persons that were written down and selected from, and returned the preceding year. The selectors shall select from the list at least two-thirds of the persons whose names they have so written down, who, in their opinion, are best qualified to serve as juries and shall place a number opposite each name of the said two-thirds so selected, and shall then prepare a set of ballots of uniform and

convenient size, such ballot shall be numbered to correspond with the numbers opposite the names of the two-third selected, and the selectors shall then proceed to ballot for jurors until the number required from every such municipality by the county selectors has been selected.

* * *

The manner of balloting, is to place all the ballots in a box, which shall be then shaken so as to mix them, and for one of the selectors to openly draw from the said box indiscriminately one of the ballots, and declare the number of such ballot, whereupon the clerk or one of the selectors present shall immediately declare the name of the person opposite whose name the corresponding number is on the list, and the name and addition of the person whose name is so selected shall be written down on a piece of paper provided for that purpose, and the selectors are required to continue until the necessary number has been completed. After having made such selections by ballot, the selectors shall distribute the names of the persons so balloted into four divisions, the first to consist of persons to serve as grand jurors in high court, the second, of persons to serve as grand jurors in the inferior courts, the third, of persons to serve as petit jurors in high court, and the fourth of persons to serve as petit jurors in the inferior courts, and shall make such distributions according to the best of their judgement.

* * *

The selectors are then required to make a duplicate report, under their hands and seal, of their selection, ballot and distribution, which report is required to be in the form of schedule A of the Jurors' Act. One of the reports shall, on or before the 25th day of October, be deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county in which the municipality lies, and the other duplicate with the clerk of the municipality. The clerk of the municipality is required to keep a book and enter the dates of the meetings of such selectors of the municipality, the persons present thereat, and the letters of the alphabet from which the selections of names of persons are from year to year, made.

* * *

For making the selection and distribution of jurors, the selectors are entitled to such sum of money as is authorized by the council of the municipality.

Mr. I. D. Bowman, County Clerk and Treasurer, of the county of Waterloo, is dead. In 1858 he was elected reeve of the town of Berlin, and in 1861 received the appointment of county clerk. In 1880 he was made county treasurer, and held the joint office together with that of town clerk of Berlin, at the time of his death. He was also inspector of the House of Industry, the pioneer institution of the kind in Ontario, and county councils generally, when considering the question, profited by his years of experience.

County Houses of Refuge.

In his address to the Grand Jury at Sandwich Justice Robertson drew attention to the desirability, if not the necessity, of providing a county house of refuge for the aged, the infirm and the poor. The gaol, he said was no place for such persons. Was it fit that such persons should be compelled to associate with criminals? Old age was no crime unless it was to be regarded a crime to live too long. Life was sweet and most of us were desirous of living as long as we could. The aged, infirm and poor we always have with us. Age could not be avoided, and riches and poverty were not always controllable. It was often the misfortune rather than the fault of people that they were infirm and poor. He pointed out that the Ontario Government contributed \$4,000 towards the erection of such a home, and he gave statistics which went to show that such institutions by the labor of the inmates could be made nearly self supporting. For business reasons as well as for humane reasons, such an institution should be in existence in every county.

Essex is in a good position to provide such a haven for its destitute and infirm, as it is practically free of debt, and fine locations can be found convenient to all sections of the county.

The county of Perth is just finishing its home of industry, which will be ready for occupancy in a couple of months. The buildings are large and substantial, fitted up with all the modern improvements, and cost but \$16,000, of which the Ontario Government contributed \$4,000.

The new Kent county council, at its first meeting in January, should consider the question of providing such an institution in Kent. The desirability of such a house of refuge has long been admitted, and if Perth can provide one for \$16,000—site included—the undertaking is not a serious one. The interest on that sum is only \$640, and far more than that is dribbled away every year by the municipalities in affording partial sustenance to the deserving poor. It is time to take a step in advance.—*Chatham Banner.*

A City Without Taxes.

With the beginning of next year, it is said, the city of Glasgow is to cease to levy taxes of any kind whatever upon its residents. The city authorities have ascertained that from that date the entire expense of the city for the future can be borne by the incomes which will be received from the public works owned by the city. Among the latter are water-works, gas and electric light plants, street railroads, sewage farms and other institutions of lesser magnitude, all of which are paying large profits annually into the city treasury. Glasgow has successfully solved the problem of correct municipal government, and has set an example worthy of emulation by every other large city throughout the world.