

Form 3 of the Voters' List Act; one insertion of notice is sufficient.

Owing to the time in which voters' lists are generally published, clerks will find difficulty sometimes in transmitting the copies to the head master or mistress of the public schools in the municipality. The great majority of the lists are published during the holidays when the teachers are absent from the schools. In many cases where teachers have resigned, new teachers have not been appointed, and as a consequence, the clerk is unable to comply with this provision of the Act. We would suggest that where teachers are not known or are not residents, that copies be mailed, registered, addressed to the teacher in care of the secretary-treasurer. We also think that if the Voters' List Act were amended by requiring the lists to be sent to the secretary-treasurer of every public or separate school of the municipality, and that he be required to post a copy on the door of the school house, it would be an improvement.

Within thirty days after the publication and posting up of the list, notice of errors or omissions in the list may be given to clerk or left for him at his residence or place of business, in writing. If the office of the clerk is vacant from any cause, the notice may be given to the head of the council of the municipality. The proceedings thereafter by the clerk, judge or parties respectively, and their respective powers and duties shall be the same as in the case of an appeal from the court of revision.

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, published at St. Thomas, Ont., contains much valuable and essential information for all parties occupying municipal offices.—[*L'Original Advertiser*.]

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An amendment of the Liquor License Act, passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, states that members of municipal councils and constables are ineligible to act as bondsmen for license holders, under the Liquor License Act.

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Eligibility to office is granted women only in school administrations in England, Norway, in the the Swedish capital, and in the poor law administration in England, Sweden and Finland. In Russia (except in the case of the village assemblies), in Austria, and in Prussia female electors may vote only by proxy, but everywhere else they have the right to vote in person.—*Boston Commonwealth*.

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The complaint has been made in the county of Oxford that the larger share of public honors is borne by bachelors. Among those thus conditioned are the Dominion member for the North riding, the provincial member for the South riding, the warden of the county, the county judge and the mayor of Woodstock. To remedy the evil a local paper offers to insert matrimonial advertisements free, or to give a premium to any lady who will secure one of the above gentlemen as a partner. Probably the best way to make the fair sex more interesting to candidates for office would be to place the names of women on the voters' list.

CORRESPONDENCE.

This paper is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

Organized Municipal Action.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD:

It is useless for us to understand the great movements which are going on in the world of to-day, unless we can apply that knowledge to our own local affairs, to our own townships and counties. Especially does the industrial world contain lessons for us. Two of its great movements we should note in particular.

First, manufacturing on a large scale has, in many cases, replaced manufacturing on a small scale. The advantages of this are manifold. Raw materials in large quantities, in all quarters of the world, are obtained, better in quality and cheaper in price. The division and organization of labor can be carried further. Expensive machinery is more freely used, and saving made in many other ways.

Secondly, a vast co-operative system has grown up among the artisans of North England and South Scotland. In all their towns are co-operative stores which in outward appearance are much like other stores but in reality are agencies by means of which the artisans buy their goods in common and so get them at cost. The managers of these local stores often did not know where to buy their supplies and were often cheated by the wholesale men. Hence, "a keystone was placed on the whole system" by organizing a wholesale co-operative society which appears like any other great wholesale concern, but in reality is simply an agency whereby the local stores get their supplies directly from headquarters at the lowest prices. It has its own steamships, imports tea from China, buys cattle in Liverpool and Glasgow markets, and buys nearly the whole butter product of Ireland. By this means the local stores get their supplies at the lowest possible prices, are sure of getting the best terms and the best goods: These two things are but phases of that organization, that systematized action which is the watchword of the modern world. Now, in this matter our municipalities are behind the times; our townships, our statute labor divisions are isolated, often acting at cross purposes, without union, harmony or systematic action. They are like manufacturers on a small scale.

Roadmaking machinery is often of the most primitive type and even the labor of men and horses is frequently only half used. They are like the co-operative stores before the wholesale society was organized.

In view of this, men are asking why a municipal bureau could not be organized in Ontario, which would be simply an agency for the municipalities, a means of helping them to help themselves, it would, in short, stand in the same relation to

them as the wholesale society stands to the local stores; and if the institution proved successful, experience would soon open up to it other fields of usefulness until through it the municipalities would be organized into a more homogeneous body than they now are, taxes and other resources would form a body of capital so vast as to place it in the position of a manufacturer on a large scale. Many kinds of supplies, municipalities cannot find at their own door; they could report to the bureau the amount of these likely to be needed during the next month, next year, etc., the bureau would keep record of all sales thus in a few years it would have a mass of statistics which would enable it to meet the demands made on it to a nicety. The statistician of New York once made from his past records an estimate of the number of deaths in the following year, from each of the common diseases. In several cases he came within one of the actual number.

A central office buying supplies for a couple of hundred townships could make much better terms with railways and wholesale dealers than isolated townships can. Such a bureau, too, in connection with the Government, could help us much in our road system, which at present suffers from two great evils. First, the boundary lines of roads have become uncertain; many townships have had expensive law suits arising out of this, and it is going to be a constant source of trouble in the future.

Secondly, the system of statute labor is inefficient. The resources of skill and science have been applied to this task, powerful roadmaking machines have been invented, new processes of roadmaking have been discovered. The peasantry of France draw their wagons over roads made of rock crushed down with mighty steam rollers. But in Ontario, the farmers in this task of the highest public importance, scornfully cast aside all the resources which modern science and invention place at their disposal, and keep to the old method. The system of statute labor can be and ought to be vastly improved, but even then it can never get itself into position to utilize all the resources which ought to be employed in roadmaking; and even if statute labor be abolished and commissioners be appointed, one may well doubt if isolated municipalities, each going its own way, can work out a good system of public roads.

Of these evils the first could be completely remedied, the second partially, if an authoritative survey were made of all the thickly settled parts of Ontario to the extent of running one line marked by iron landmarks through each township which in all future cases of dispute would give an instant means of settling the matter, expensive no doubt but cheaper than law suits, or appeals to Crown lands department.

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