

The Municipal World

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ST. THOMAS, ONT., OCTOBER 1, 1904.

We have again to call the attention of our subscribers to the fact that we will not answer any question submitted to us by correspondents who neglect or refuse to append their signatures to their communications.

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Mr. Thomas Beasley recently completed his fiftieth year as clerk of the City of Hamilton.

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Mr. Henry Key has been appointed clerk of the Township of Oakland, to succeed Mr. Mahlon Edy.

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A by-law to raise \$16,000 for the construction of local improvements was recently carried by the electors of Parry Sound by a majority of 78 votes.

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A by-law to raise \$7,500 debentures to purchase what is known as the Caldwell Mill property, a tract of 26 acres on the western boundary of Carleton Place, with the river bank on the north side and the concession line on the south, was voted on at Carleton Place recently and carried by a majority of 14 votes.

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We clip the following from a recent issue of the *Collingwood Bulletin*: "It is surprising to see one or two of the towns moving towards having the county council composed of mayors and reeves. An active mayor of a town surely has sufficient to occupy his time and attention with matters relating to his own charge without seeking to enter a wider field and necessarily increase the duties which, if properly attended to, are already sufficiently onerous and responsible for one individual. This is notably true in the case of the chief magistrate of Collingwood, and we believe that the same will apply to the mayors of Barrie, Orillia and Midland, the other large towns within the county. A change, we believe, would prove disadvantageous to the towns at least, and as far as can be seen at present, would not aid the townships."

Mr. William Stothers, for many years the efficient clerk of the Township of Ashfield, died last month.

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Our attention has been called to a number of instances where municipalities have undertaken to fix the assessment of manufacturing institutions at a stated rate annually for a term of years by resolution or by-law passed in the ordinary way. In pursuing these methods the councils are treading on dangerous ground, as they are not complying with the provisions of the statute in this regard. It is provided by section 591a of The Consolidated Municipal Act, 1903, that the word "bonus" where it occurs in section 366a or sub-section 12 of section 591 of the Act shall mean and include, amongst other things, "the fixing of the assessment of any property for a term of years." (See clause (g) of section 591a). Sub-section 12 of section 591 makes provision for the passing of BY-LAWS for granting aid by way of bonus for the promotion of manufactures within the limits of the municipality, and clause (a) of this sub-section provides that no such by-law shall be passed until it has received the assent of the electors in conformity with the provisions of the Act in respect of by-laws for granting bonuses to manufacturing industries. Council should not transact business in a way that suggests itself to them as being easier and cheaper than the method the statutes provide. Although it may entail some trouble and considerable expense in the first instance, a strict compliance with the provisions of the statutes, will always be found the cheapest and easiest in its results.

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In a recent issue a leading Toronto daily announced the fact that the clerk of the County of York had received a number of resolutions passed by local councils in the county approving of a change in the composition of the county council, and further stated that "by a recent Act it was provided that if the majority of the municipalities asked for this change in the constitution of the county council it will have to be put to a vote at the next municipal elections." This is an erroneous statement of the provisions of section 68a of The Consolidated Municipal Act, 1903, as amended by section 3 of chapter 22 of The Ontario Statutes, 1904. Clause (b) of sub-section 1 of this section now provides that, if the resolutions are passed by local municipal councils and filed with the county clerk as directed by the provisions of the former part of this sub-section, "the by-law shall be submitted to the electors at the time fixed by law for holding a poll at the election of the council of each local municipality for the year next preceding the year in which polling for a general election of county councillors would take place under the Act." There will be polling for a general election of county councillors at the next municipal elections, and also at those to be held for the year 1907. It will therefore be observed that a by-law of the kind in question cannot be legally submitted to the vote of the municipal electors of the county until the municipal elections for 1906.