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Communications and advertisements for next issue must be in on or before the 20th of this month.

ST. THOMAS, DECEMBER 1, 1892.

With this number, volume 2 of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD is completed. Judging from the numerous letters received, we believe that the efforts of the present management have been appreciated. With the experience gained during the past year, and the continued support of municipal councillors and officers, we purpose to still further improve the paper, and hope that all whose subscriptions expire with this issue will send in their orders so that the January number may be received at the usual time. Those who are members of councils during next year will have an opportunity of assisting us by taking advantage of our club rates for a copy for each member and officer.

Section 489, sub-section 2, of the Consolidated Assessment Act, gives the councils of every local municipality authority to pass by-laws disqualifying any elector from voting at municipal elections, who has not paid all the municipal taxes due by him on or before the 14th day of December next preceding the election. A by-law under this sub-section should be passed a sufficient time before the election to give persons in default an opportunity to obtain the restoration of their franchise under the provision of section 81 of the said Act. Where a by-law has been passed under this section the treasurer is required by section 251 of the Consolidated Municipal Act to prepare, on or before the 20th December in each year, and transmit to the clerk, a list of all persons who have not paid their municipal taxes on or before the 14th day of the said month of December. Section 81 provides that any who may be included in the defaulters' list required under the provisions of the above-mentioned sections, or of section 119, may put in their vote, by depositing with the deputy returning officer a receipt from the treasurer of the

municipality showing that they have paid their taxes.

* * *
The question of the reduction of members of county councils leads us to consider whether the interests of the municipalities would not be just as well served if the number of members of township and village councils was reduced to three, who would be elected for a term of three years, to retire in rotation the same as school trustees, the senior member to be chairman or reeve. The present system of electing councillors for one year has a bad tendency, which is most noticeable on our roads. They are not at any time sure of re-election, and the consequence is they endeavor to make a small amount of money go as far as possible, without much thought as to what they or others may decide to do the following year. If, on the other hand, they were elected for a term of years, uniformity and a continuance of the work would be provided for.

* * *
Under the provisions of sec. 263, sub-sec. 3, the council of every town, township, or incorporated village is required to hold a meeting on the 15th day of December, and shall immediately thereafter publish a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures for the portion of the year ending on the day of said meeting, together with a statement of the assets and liabilities and uncollected taxes, and a similar statement in detail is required to be attached thereto respecting the last fifteen days of the preceding year. The statement should be signed by the mayor or reeve and by the treasurer, and published forthwith in such newspapers as the council may direct. Instead of publishing the statement in the newspaper the council may cause the same to be posted up not later than the 24th day of December in the offices of the clerk and treasurer, as well as the post offices in the municipality, and not less than twelve other conspicuous places therein. The clerk is required to procure not less than 100 additional copies of said statement and deliver or transmit by post to the electors who first request him to do so, one of such copies not later than the 24th day of December, and shall also produce copies of the said statement at the nomination. This section does not apply to East or West Algoma, North Renfrew, Muskoka, Parry Sound, or Haliburton. The statement is thought by many to be unnecessary, and we are aware that in some

municipalities the council has published only an abstract statement of their receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities, together with a note explaining that if any ratepayer wishes to procure a detailed statement he can do so free of charge on application to the clerk. Where this is done the council have to pay the clerk for extra work in connection therewith. This is not in accordance with the wording of the section, and should only be resorted to where, by some unavoidable cause, the council is unable to furnish a detailed statement in time.

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On or before the 15th day of December township councils are required by section 118 of the Public Schools Act to pay to the secretary-treasurer of the board of trustees of each section, without any deduction whatever, all sums levied and collected for public school purposes in said section. To secure correctness in this matter the clerk should mail each secretary-treasurer an order filled in with the correct amount due the section, to be signed by at least a majority of the trustees and sealed before being presented to the council or treasurer. The amounts to be paid to the trustees as above referred to are those mentioned in section 109 of the Public Schools Act.

* * *
A meeting of the municipal clerks of the county of Grey was held recently at Owen Sound. A. Stephen, Desboro, was appointed president, and G. G. Albery, of Meaford, secretary. Several questions of interest were discussed and the meeting adjourned to meet again during the month of January.

* * *
A wrong opinion has been formed of the proposed organization of clerks in each county. It is not for the purpose of meeting in hostility against the various councils, but rather the contrary. Such an association will prove beneficial to the clerks in discussing the various duties of the office, and the intricate Municipal Act. That a municipality will also be benefited by the more extensive information of the clerk is without doubt; for councils generally resort to clerks to find the law relative to the different points brought up at the meetings, and much of the township business outside of the meetings is left to them.

* * *
The government of a municipality should not be for a ring, or for a faction, but truly and absolutely for the people.