

CORRESPONDENCE.

This paper is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but so that the publishers will know from whom they are received.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD :

DEAR SIR,—In your last issue you refer to the practice of riding bicycles on sidewalks and conclude your article by saying, "as the bicycle has evidently come to stay, the sooner those using the machines know their position in reference to the use of sidewalks, the better, not only for themselves, but the public generally."

I am sure in thus stating the matter you will meet with the approval of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association. This body, which includes all the leading clubs in the Dominion is a most powerful one, as is instanced by the manner in which they defeated a bill introduced in the legislature by Mr. Davis, of North York, some two years ago, with a view to restricting their rights as vehicles upon the highway. It has always decried sidewalk riding, and no bicyclist who does so and incurs damages, or punishment, will meet with any sympathy from the association. Indeed there is no reason, in my opinion, for riding upon a sidewalk at all, unless the road is impassible. In the event of a collision, in all likelihood, the bicyclist will come out second best, and none but new and ignorant riders, whose conduct frequently brings the sport into disrepute, will be found doing so.

This year the association, following on the footsteps of similar bodies in both England and the United States, has formed a road improvement committee, under the chairmanship of W. Kingsley Evans, of London, Ont. The duties of this committee are to bring to the attention of councils, and the public generally, the disadvantage and loss to all concerned of having poor roads. The interests of wheelmen in this direction are the same as the farmer and the merchant, and I am sure Mr. Evans will do all in his power to urge on the good work.

In conclusion let me say that every cyclist who has toured to any extent will undoubtedly say that our main travelled roads in Western Ontario, such as Talbot street from St. Thomas to Windsor, and the London and Sarnia gravel road, are much superior to similar roads in Michigan and New York. Still, much remains to be done in road improvement, and much can doubtless be achieved by doing away with the wasteful and patchwork method of statute labor now practiced and the adoption of a systematic and practical method of improving our country roads.

Mr. Evans will, doubtless, soon be in a position to supply literature in regard to the matter, and the C. W. A. may be depended upon to do its share in helping on this grand work. Yours truly,

W. W. OWENS.

Forest, Ont., July 9th, 1892.

Clerks' Salaries.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD :

DEAR SIR,—With your permission I would like to say a word among the rest, about clerks' salaries. I agree with your correspondent that municipal clerks as a rule receive rediculously low salaries for the amount of work they perform, that there is little chance of any remedy unless the legislature should pass an act fixing a scale by which clerks' salaries shall be gauged. But I think a lower scale than that suggested would very materially advance the salaries in most cases. I think the following would be a fair arrangement: For the first 200 names on the assessment roll, \$50 per 100; for the next 600 names \$25 per 100, names to be counted by twenties, thus 200 names or more up to 220, \$100; 220 or more up to 240, \$110, and so on.

Your next correspondent, signing himself "Reeve," furnishes an illustration of the necessity of the legislature passing an act fixing clerks' salaries. It is all very well for taxpayers having "a right to have all these things to deal with," so long as they have any idea of the work to be performed, which not one in fifty has. A very intelligent taxpayer said to me the other day, "I suppose you have quite a bit of work after each council meeting," and that is the idea a great many have of a municipal clerk's work; they know nothing about the work of copying rolls, making school section rolls, voters' lists, by-laws, and so on, to say nothing of correspondence replying to enquiries, some of which involve a considerable amount of search, which all takes time.

And this is just where the difficulty comes in. "Reeve," and "Councillor" as well, are afraid to do justice to the clerk, even if they have a proper idea of the amount of work he performs, lest the formidable "taxpayer" (who is also a voter) may not approve. Now, I do not think that any one man has a right to one cent of the taxpayers' money that he does not honestly earn; and the legislature has taken every precaution, as far as acts of the legislature can prevent anyone from taking the taxpayers' money without giving a fair equivalent; at the same time, I believe that taxpayers have no right to the services of any one man, either as clerk or in any other capacity, without giving fair remuneration for it, and I think the legislature has as much right to interfere in one case as in the other.

Another thing I would like to refer to, while writing, is that of municipal clerks' conventions, and would suggest that the clerk of each county call a meeting of all municipal clerks in the county, and at meetings so called delegates be appointed to attend a provincial convention. It would have been a good thing if arrangements could have been made to hold a provincial meeting during the industrial exhibition in Toronto.

CLERK

A Municipal Association.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD :

Allow me to congratulate you on the appearance of your paper, which I hope is as much appreciated in other parts of the province as it is in this county. It cannot help but be of great assistance to any one engaged in municipal matters, be they ever so well posted.

I have been thinking for some time of the best plan on which to organize an association of municipal officers, and have read with interest what has been said both in the *Miscellany* of last year, and THE MUNICIPAL WORLD in reference to the matter. One of your correspondents refers in the April number to the formation of a Municipal Clerks' Association in the county of Wentworth, and mentioned some of the benefits derived therefrom. If such an association was formed in each county, I think there would not be much trouble in organizing a provincial association, and until that is done I do not believe it would be advisable to endeavor to arrange for a general meeting unless a number of those who would be eligible for membership signify their approval of the same. My idea is that all clerks would not be able to attend, no matter when or where the meeting was held. That if an association was formed in each county matters of local interest could be considered and assistance offered to those desiring it, the county associations could discuss the formation of a provincial association and delegates be appointed from each to attend the same. All municipal clerks would, of course, be as eligible as the delegates appointed.

Another matter that I think should be considered is that in the formation of a society of this kind the membership should not be confined to municipal officers alone, but should include the members of councils. There is an educational association in successful operation, its members being composed of the teachers and trustees of the schools of the province, and to make any municipal officers' association a success, it should include in its membership all those interested in municipal work. At a meeting of a general society, such as I propose, the municipal officers could form a society to further their own interests in particular, and representatives from rural and urban municipalities could each have a section which would be devoted to their special interests, and anything the different sections would have to suggest could be brought before the general meeting, and if concurred in would have considerable influence in bringing about desired amendments and improvements in municipal laws.

"W. L. H.," in a letter in the May issue of your paper, favors the formation of a provincial association first. I cannot agree with him in this, which I think will be readily understood from the above.

I also notice that some clerks are writing in reference to legislation to increase

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