

# The Municipal World

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In the Interests of every department of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario.

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ST. THOMAS, MAY 1, 1902.

The County of Welland proposes to spend \$100,000 on a system of county roads.

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The printed proceedings of the January session of the county council, of the county of Simcoe, contains a full page photo of D. Guinlan, Ex-Warden. This is a new feature which should commend itself to the printing committee of every council.

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At a recent meeting of the council of the town of Walkerton, one of the councillors was ejected from the council chamber, by order of the Mayor, for acting in a disorderly manner. The councillor entered action against the Mayor for damages and the Judge at the trial held that the Mayor acted properly and the jury promptly found a verdict in his favor.

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His Honor Judge Barron, of Stratford, unseated a number of the councillors of the town of Mitchell, on the ground that they were, at the time of their election, members of an organization which had an unsettled claim or account against the municipality, and were, at that time, taking proceedings to enforce a settlement. This decision was confirmed by Chief Justice Mr. W. R. Meredith on appeal to him.

## Electric Lighting.

Gravenhurst and Tottenham have recently passed by-laws for the installation of municipal electric lighting plants, and an electric plant has been established in Ayr by a company. In Collingwood the purchase of a water power near the town is proposed for the purpose of using it in operating the town's electric plant.

## Miscellaneous Municipal Legislation, 1902.

### THE VOTERS' LIST ACT.

The attention of clerks of municipalities is called to section 3, of the Statute Law Amendment Act, 1902, which provides that "section 10, of *The Ontario Voters' Lists Act*, is amended by adding thereto the following sub-section: "(2.) Upon the outside or cover of each of the copies so sent shall be printed, or written conspicuously, the date of posting of the said list, thus: This list was posted up in the clerk's office, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_."

### THE MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS ACT.

Section 24, of the above Act, adds the following to *The Municipal Waterworks Act*: (5) The council of the township, city, town or village, with the assent of the electors of the municipality, to be obtained in the manner provided by *The Municipal Act*, in the case of by-laws for the creation of debts may, by by-law, provide that the commissioners elected, or to be elected for the purposes of this Act, shall have and possess the powers and shall perform the duties of commissioners under *The Municipal Light and Heat Act*, and from and after the passing of such by-law the said commissioners shall be known as "The Water and Light Commissioners of the . . . of . . .," and shall have, possess, enjoy and exercise all the rights, powers and privileges and shall perform all the duties of commissioners under *The Municipal Light and Heat Act* as well as of commissioners elected under this Act.

### THE LIQUOR LICENSE ACT.

Section 105, of *The Liquor License Act*, providing for the curing and amending of convictions and warrants enforcing the same or other process or proceedings under the Act, is repealed by section 25, of the above Act.

### THE DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES ACT.

Section 26 amends *The Ditches and Watercourses Act* by striking out all the words in sub-section 1, of section 28, as amended by section 3, of chap. 28, of the Ontario Statutes, 1899, from the commencement of the said sub-section down to and including the word "interested," in the fourth line, and inserting in lieu thereof the words "the engineer, at the expiration of the time limited by the award for the completion of the ditch, shall inspect the same."

### THE ACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

Sub-section 1, of section 27, extends the time for payment of debentures issued under the authority of section 9, of this Act, from twenty to thirty years, and sub-section 2 extends the time within which county councils may pass by-laws designating the highways to be improved in the county from the 1st of January, 1903, to the 1st of January, 1904.

### MODE OF ADMINISTERING OATH.

Section 29 provides that "if any person to whom an oath is administered desires to swear with uplifted hand, in the form and manner in which an oath is usually administered in Scotland, he shall be permitted so to do, and the oath shall be administered to him in such form and manner without further question." The following is the form of the oath administered in Scotland: "I swear by Almighty God, (as I shall answer to God in the great Day of Judgment,) that I will speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." While repeating this oath the witness stands holding up his right hand.

### Toronto University Studies and Local Government.

A department for the study of political science was introduced in Toronto University some years ago and considerable attention has since been directed to the necessity for intelligent enquiry into many subjects of importance to Canada and Ontario, including local government, city conditions, etc.

"The Ontario township" by J. M. McEvoy, B.A., published by the university in 1899 was an evidence of the importance of scientific investigation and research.

We have recently received the first number of volume two of the University Studies, which is devoted to the following municipal subjects:

City Government in Canada, by S. M. Wickett, B. A.

Westmount, a Municipal Illustration, by Mayor W. D. Lighthall.

Municipal Government in Toronto, by S. M. Wickett, and an appendix, containing a list of publications referring to Canadian Municipal Government.

In order that improvement may come in government or business, the first thing needful is to know the precise existing condition of affairs and the leading causes that have operated to bring it about. Dr. Wickett has paved the way for a series of articles on city government and, with the assistance of Mayor Lighthall, has shown what can be done towards ascertaining present conditions.

During the past few years, the necessity, for better municipal government in cities, has been brought to the attention of the legislature in many ways. This is in itself sufficient to justify a careful study of the legal foundations of the city in Canada and to make such a study an actual necessity for the information of our representatives and others before they can intelligently enact or criticise amendments to present laws.

The progressive action of the university in publishing the result of investigations in the field of local government will be appreciated by all.