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MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS.

The influence of the Ontario Municipal Association is noticeable in the following sections of *The Municipal Amendment Act*—section 9, sub-section 2, sections 10, 13, 19, 31, 35 and 40. The most important amendment introduced on behalf of the Association was that providing for the repeal or amendment of section 606 which relates to the liability of municipal corporations in actions for damages caused by accidents on the highway. Three hundred and twenty-four municipalities petitioned for a change and the executive of the Association submitted an amendment which they supported before the Municipal Committee. There was considerable opposition from the members when the section was brought up for discussion both in the committee and in the Legislature. The amendment as published in the April number, had the support of the chairman of the Municipal Committee, but notwithstanding this, it was thrown out on the third reading, the active oppositionists being Messrs. FERGUSON, of Grenville, MCKAY, GRAHAM, LUCAS and others. The question is not a political one in any way. If this amendment is to be obtained, the municipal councils must start a campaign of education and do some personal work with their respective representatives in the Legislature. The Municipal Association must be supported in its future efforts to procure this and other legislation beneficial to the interests of municipal government in Ontario. There may have been some excuse for municipal councils that have not supported the Municipal Association in the past. The Legislature has recognized the benefits to be derived therefrom by passing section 19 of *The Municipal Amendment Act*, providing "that the Council of any municipality may subscribe and accept membership in any union or proposed union of Ontario municipalities, and may pay the fees for such membership and make any contributions for the expenses thereof and may pay the expenses of delegates sent to any meeting of such union or upon the business thereof." The effect of this should be to increase the interest in meetings of the Provincial Association and enlarge its sphere of usefulness. It will also encourage the formation of local associations similar to that of the Ontario Rural Municipal Association of which Mr. JAMES LAIDLAW, of Guelph, is Secretary.

THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1907

The Following Sections in This Act Relate to Municipal Matters :

Use of Town Hall by Justices of The Peace

4. *The Act respecting the Qualification and Appointment of Justices of the Peace* is amended by adding thereto the following as section 26 :

26 A Justice of the Peace shall have the right, unless another suitable place is provided by the municipality, to use the town hall of any municipality which has no police magistrate for the hearing of cases brought before him, but not so as to interfere with its ordinary use.

Provision for Absence or Illness of Police Magistrate.

5. *The Act respecting Police Magistrates* is amended by adding thereto the following section :

39 In case of the illness or absence from the county of a police magistrate, any other police magistrate within the county, whether appointed for the county or for a city, town or village therein, shall have all the powers and may perform all the duties of the police magistrate during such illness or absence, and shall also have jurisdiction and power to continue and complete any proceedings begun before him, notwithstanding that the first mentioned police magistrate may in the meantime have recovered or returned.

Collection of Costs by Corporation Where Solicitor or Counsel Paid a Salary

13 Where the remuneration of a solicitor or counsel employed by a corporation is wholly or partly paid by salary, the corporation employing such solicitor or counsel shall notwithstanding have the right to recover and collect lawful costs in all actions and proceedings in the same manner as if the solicitor or counsel were not receiving a salary where the costs are by the terms of his employment payable to the solicitor or counsel as part of his remuneration in addition to his salary. (See 3 Edw. VII, chap. 19, sec. 320, subsection 3.)

Continuation of Exemptions from Taxation.

16. The proviso to section 591b of *The Consolidated Municipal Act, 1903*, as enacted by section 29 of *The Municipal Amendment Act, 1905*, as subsequently amended, is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor :

Provided that in the case of any municipality in which taxes for the year 1907 will be levied upon an assessment made in the year 1906, the municipal council may, by a two-thirds vote of the members thereof, continue any such exemptions heretofore granted so as to apply to and include taxes to be levied in the year 1907.

Method of Ascertaining Cost of Maintenance of Non-Resident Pupils Attending High Schools

40. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 34 of *The High Schools Act* and the amendments thereto, the liability of any municipality under subsections 6 7 or 9 of the said section as amended shall be determined as follows:—

From the total cost of maintenance of the High School there shall be deducted the amount of the legislative grant, —the remainder shall be divided by a number representing the total number of days' attendance of all pupils at such High School during the year for which payment is to be made and the resulting amount shall be multiplied by the total number of days' attendance of pupils in respect of whom such municipality is liable, the percentage mentioned in the subsection under which payment is to be made shall then be determined, and from this amount the fees paid by such pupils shall be deducted, and the resulting amount shall be the amount payable by such municipality.