

Voting Machines in Orangeville.

At the Municipal Elections held in the Town of Orangeville, on the 5th of January the "Imperial Automatic Voting Machine," an invention of Dr. Farwell, of Toronto, was used and worked without a hitch. At 5 o'clock on election day, the Town Clerk, Mr. A. A. Hughson, attended at the Town Hall, and five and one-half minutes past five o'clock the result of the poll in the four wards of the town was in his hands, added up and the result known. The electors were very much pleased with the working of the machines and regard this method of voting as in every way superior to voting by ballot. By using the machines the vote can be taken much quicker, mistakes in voting for too many candidates are avoided, no votes are spoiled and in every respect the advantage is with the machines as against voting by ballot.

The machine in its entirety is a composite one and consists essentially of a case having three rows of push bars projecting from its face, one for the election of mayor and voting on by-laws, one for the election of councillors and one for the election of school trustees, there being one push bar for each candidate, and the name of the candidate is printed above the push bar. At the back of the machine, and concealed within it, are a number of registers corresponding to the number of push bars. Mechanism is interposed between these which determines the operation of the machine. There is also on the face and fully in sight of the elector when voting a sum total or verifying register. The machine is so constructed that the elector can vote for only the number of candidates to be elected. By a simple device the machine can be changed from allowing the elector to vote for any given number of candidates to any other given number. The change can be made in a very few minutes and an understanding of the mechanism of the machine can be readily acquired. The back of the machine is locked while voting is going on and is unlocked at the close of the poll, when the total votes given for each candidate is immediately seen.

When the elector wishes to vote he presents himself to the Deputy-Returning Officer as usual. The Poll Clerk having ascertained his right to vote he passes behind the customary screen, and standing in front of the machine, places his thumb on the push bar opposite the candidate's name for whom he wishes to vote and presses it in, when it becomes locked, and after he has repeated this for the number of candidates for whom he is entitled to vote, the remaining push bars become locked, and the voter is prevented from doing any further voting. The vote is recorded on the individual registers

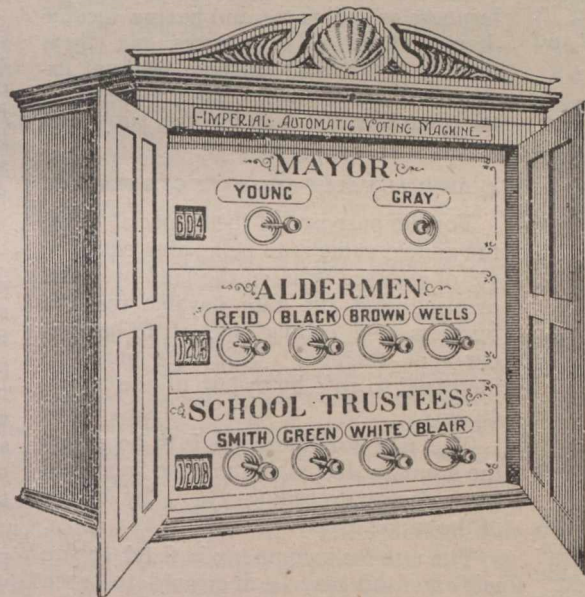
within the machine and also on the verifying register.

On leaving the polling booth the voter passes through a turnstile, which completes the registering of the vote, unlocks the push bars, when they resume their original position and the machine is ready for the next one.

The machines are made out of hardened steel, which makes them practically indestructible, and nickel plate, which insures them against destruction by rust.

Four machines were used during the election, one for each ward, and in every case worked with complete satisfaction. The candidates are perfectly satisfied with the accuracy of the vote recorded.

The election for County Councillors was held at the same time by ballot. While the electors voted on the machine without an error there were twelve ballots spoiled by the same electors in voting for County Councillors, and as the difference between the lower successful and the highest defeated candidate is only ten



VOTING MACHINE—FRONT VIEW.

votes, the way is here open for a recount with its necessary expense.

The February issue of the Canadian Magazine contains an able article by H. J. Pettypiece, M. P. P. of Forest in which he refers to assessment of railways in Canada, the United States and other countries. The railways in Ontario are assessed very much lower than elsewhere, owing to Section 31 of the Assessment Act under which railway property is assessed according to the average value of land in the locality. Mr. Pettypiece, with the vast amount of information at his disposal, will be an able advocate of the assessment of railways at their actual value.

Mr. J. J. Donnelly has been appointed clerk of the Township of Greenock in the place of Mr. J. W. McNab.

Municipal Telephone System.

Referring to the municipal telephones which are being installed in Fort William and Port Arthur, the Times-Journal says:—There are now about one hundred telephones installed of the municipal telephone system, and men are at work installing as fast as possible. Up to the present time there have been two places that have agreed to take municipal telephones that the men have been refused permission to install them. The business men and wives of business men are waiting anxiously for the town system to be installed so that they can get the service they have been waiting for. There are many stories afloat as to the intentions of the Bell company, but there need be no alarm, as the people are a unit in standing by their own. As an instance of what capitalists consider the most value in these places it is known that constant enquiries are being made as to the probable chance of purchasing the street railway and water and light systems. There is now a gentleman in the town who is the representative of large capitalists in Michigan, and his special object in coming here was to endeavor to purchase the street railway. He soon found out that it is not for sale. When these men are told that the towns both own the public franchises, and are now putting in a telephone system, they admit that we are pursuing the proper course. The telephone franchise will be worth thousands in less than five years, and who are the proper persons to own it—the people who live in the towns or foreign capitalists?

Practical Effect of Municipal Ownership of Water Power.

The Orillia Board of Trade has issued a statement, the chief point of which is this query, "Do you know that the town of Orillia sells electric energy at \$16 a horse-power per annum, 24 hours to the day?"

By the newspaper report of the proceedings of the council of a western township, at its first meeting, we are informed that "the reeve appointed A. B. auditor for 1903." The reeve has had no authority to nominate or appoint an auditor since the enactment of section 8 of chapter 23 of the Ontario statutes, 1898. The council should appoint BOTH the auditors annually by by-law.

The reeve of Alexandria, Mr. Angus McDonald, has received an official notice that the village has been erected into a town. The town is to be divided into three wards, the north, the centre, and the south.

Mr. C. E. Willox has succeeded Mr. J. H. Garner as clerk of the village of Niagara Falls South.