

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.

Trustees' Duties.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD:

SIRS,—Under S. S. 8, of section 40, of the Public Schools Act, it is the duty of school trustees to apply to the township council on or before the 1st of August to levy and collect all necessary sums for the support of their school, etc. The act does not give trustees authority to apply to the township council for the above purpose after the first of August, but still this is the invariable practice among trustees of rural school sections, and rather than give offence to the trustees the township council complies with their requirements. I believe the act should be amended so as to compel trustees to levy and collect their own rates when they fail to apply to the council as the law directs.

Again, under S. S. 10, of Section 40, above cited, trustees have an important duty to perform, which the majority of trustees fail to observe. I would like very much to have your opinion on the above two sub-sections.

A MUNICIPAL CLERK.

We have been aware for some time that Public School Trustees do not perform the duties required of them by sub-section 8, section 40, of the Public Schools Act promptly, but their delay does not relieve the council of the duty imposed on them by sub-section 3, of section 109, of the same Act. In most townships, trustees are notified early in July to send in amount required for the year, and while some of them may delay the clerk in his work by not sending in the amount, still this system of collecting the taxes has been found to work much more satisfactorily than the old system by which the trustees collected the rate themselves from ratepayers in the section. Our practice is, at the August meeting of the council, when the by-law is passed levying trustees' rates, to leave blanks for amounts required by sections not reported at that time. These are filled in as received.

Sub-section 10, of section 40, of the same Act, requires trustees to give notice in writing before the 15th day of January in each year to the clerk of the township in which their school is situated of the names and post office addresses of the trustees. This section is very seldom, if ever, complied with, but any clerk would, no doubt, on application to the public school inspector, receive a list of the secretary-treasurers of the school sections of his municipality, and if thought advisable, it might be made the duty of the public school inspector each year after he has completed list for the county to send the names and post office addresses of each secretary-treasurer to the municipal clerks

of the different townships in the county.

The dates given in the sections named are, in our opinion, directory (the same as dates given the Municipal and Voters List Acts) and in case trustees neglect the duties imposed by these sections or refuse to perform them they are liable to the penalty imposed by section 195, Public Schools Act.—ED.

Municipal Clerks' Association.

County of Oxford.

MR. EDITOR,—If you have space in your valuable little WORLD I will give you a brief synopsis of our doings as an association. Previous to this year our assessment and collectors' rolls were not satisfactory in many respects, causing no little trouble to the equalization committee of the county council. It occurred to the committee that it would be a good move to invite all the municipal clerks of the county to assemble in the county clerk's office in Woodstock and prepare a more complete form of said rolls, which was done, and the result so satisfactory to the council that they voted we should meet again to discuss municipal matters, paying us for each meeting \$3 per day and mileage. We met again yesterday in convention, and spent a very profitable day, discussing every separate class of municipal work, from dogs to drainage, agreeing as far as possible to a uniformity of work, and unravelling many of the peculiar twists of municipal law. At the close of a hard day's work we resolved into a permanent association of municipal clerks, electing a chairman and secretary, to meet annually for the purpose of discussing and promoting new legislation pertaining to municipal work. I would heartily recommend all municipal clerks to form themselves into county associations for mutual improvement, and the general benefit of their respective municipalities. The following resolution was unanimously carried: Resolved, that we, the municipal clerks of the county of Oxford, in convention assembled, heartily endorse "THE MUNICIPAL WORLD" and pledge it our continual support, and that we make use of its columns for discussion of topics interesting to municipal officers, and do cheerfully recommend it to all municipal clerks and other officers. Yours truly,

E. CODY,

Sec. Co. Oxford Municipal Clerks' Association.

Embry, July 23, 1892.

Clerks' Salaries.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD:

I notice in your last issue that another municipal clerk complains of the small remuneration they receive for the amount of work required to be performed, and stating that municipal councillors do not know the amount of work that a clerk has to do. To some extent this is true, but

it is the same with all public offices. The writer claims that members of the legislature do not know the amount of work required to be performed by the clerk. I think it is presumptuous and unreasonable to think that the legislature should have any more jurisdiction over clerks' salaries than they have now. For instance, if I hired a clerk to go into your office at a set remuneration agreed to by him, and you were required to abide by my agreement, although you have to pay him from your own funds, or say you send me a hand from your office to my farm and I have to pay the remuneration you have agreed to, Mr. Editor, that would surely be despotic, and not an act of British fair play.

I would say, again, that in my opinion, we have too many acts, too many sessions, too many members, and too many changes. If members and sessions were curtailed one half, there would be more time taken in ruling the country and less time devoted to party purposes.

I would like to hear from others on this subject, as THE MUNICIPAL WORLD is open to all, and the province of Ontario is large, and officers too plentiful. Let us hear from all.

REEVE.

Clerks' Salaries.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD:

DEAR SIR,—In looking over your valuable pages of the month of August, I see the scale of clerks' salaries laid down by CLERK. Now, sir, I think the scale should be laid down at twenty-five cents per head for every person that is on the roll. The only difficulty would be, the council would not know the clerk's salary until the 30th of April, the time for the return of the assessment roll. Even at that rate the clerk is not paid according to clerks in other positions.

I also see a piece about municipal officers' association in the August number. Now, sir, the clerks have never been wakened up to their position until the *Miscellany* or THE MUNICIPAL WORLD came into their hands, and I think they will now take it up if you advocate it. The exhibition in Toronto will be held from the 5th to the 17th of September; now, if you could get some of the most influential clerks in the province of Ontario to call a meeting in Toronto during the exhibition, I think it will be well attended, and increase every year after. You also say a strong effort was made on a previous occasion in this direction, which was an entire failure. Now, sir, I paid up my dues until it stopped, start it again and I am in favor of it. Yours truly,

C. P.

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The lieutenant-governor has issued his proclamation bringing the Torrens system of land transfer into force in the county of Elgin and city of St. Thomas.