

The Municipal World.

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Address all communications to

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ST. THOMAS, SEPTEMBER 1, 1893.

We notice that some municipalities have passed by-laws that no person, not being a bona fide resident of a township, is entitled to compensation for sheep alleged to have been killed by a dog or dogs, although he may be owner of property in the municipality.

This is rather a curious enactment and one that, if made general, would, we think, have to be set aside by legislation, if section 18 of chap. 214, R. S. O., does not already decide that the owner of any sheep or lamb killed or injured by any dog, may within three months apply to the council of the municipality in which such sheep or lamb was killed or injured for compensation for the injured etc. We cannot find that any authority is given by the statutes to municipalities to pass by-laws making the provision referred to.

Municipal Sanitation.

John Simon has truly said that uncleanliness must, without doubt, be reckoned as the deadliest of our present removable causes of disease. It is also just as true that populations, living amid filth, and within direct reach of its polluting influence, succumb to various diseases which, under opposite conditions, are comparatively or absolutely unknown, and the broad knowledge that filth makes disease is amply represented in the oldest records which exist of legislation meant for masses of mankind.

Cholera is a filth disease, and in order to prevent cholera we must prevent filth. It therefore follows, that, in order to prevent disease, of which cholera is a type, the essential condition is cleanliness. Our main defence against cholera then is thorough cleanliness; not the highest standard of cleanliness or chemical purity, but such as is opposed to filth, or putrescent refuse matter, solid or liquid, which causes nuisance by its effluvia and soilage; cleanliness of houses, cellars, yards, alley-ways, open spaces, both public and

private, streets, gutters, highways, etc., and particularly cleanliness of the water supply.

How is this to be brought about? By persistent and united effort of the authorities and of individuals, encouraged, fostered and compelled by constant presentation and agitation of the subject; in a word, by creating public sentiment in its favor. The utter impossibility of the authority to carry out this object alone and single handed is evident to any one conversant with the manner in which a large proportion of the population live, in utter disregard of sanitary principles and rules. While the authorities must do their part and do it well, each individual has his share of work to do or should have it done for him.

There are always, in every large city, locations which, from the depraved and ignorant character and slovenly habits of the people and general untidiness that results therefrom, are a menace to the public health. These localities need the most vigilant supervision and incessant labor to keep them in safe sanitary condition. Cleaned to-day, they quickly relapse into their former bad condition. Repeated effort is, therefore, required to maintain them in proper sanitary condition. It is here that the missionary work of the volunteer committees is much needed. And it is these localities that should be selected for the field of operation. We must recognize the fact that the people must be instructed by painstaking labor to observe the ordinary rules of hygiene, and it is by just such organizations that this work can be accomplished in co-operation with the local authorities. The distribution of sanitary tracts does little good among this class of inhabitants. Personal intercourse and instruction are a necessity and are surely more effective and much more to be depended upon.—*Popular Health Journal.*

With the advances of civilization and the crowding of people together into villages, towns and cities, the prevalence of certain diseases becomes greater and the number of persons dying is comparatively larger. In ordinary times the various local health boards, hospitals, dispensaries and such like, are able to urge and carry out measures to prevent the spread of disease, to take care of those needing medical attention, and to exercise general medical supervision over the public. But in times of special danger it may be that the co-operation of intelligent and public-spirited citizens will be desirable.

* * *

It is undoubtedly wise to see that all precautions are taken to put a city in the best possible condition to resist the spread of cholera and to be prepared for prompt and efficient action in case the disease should appear.

Voters Lists in Cities.

An act passed at the last session of the legislature, which is to be read as part of the Ontario Voter's List Act, provides that the clerk of every city is required to deliver to the assessor a copy of the last revised voter's list and a list of deaths of male persons over 21 years of age, who died in the city since the first day of January preceding the final revision of said voter's list. This list is to be taken from particulars contained in returns required to be made to the registrar general.

Many city assessments will be completed during the present month, and attention is specially directed to the oath the assessor is required to make in returning the roll. It is as follows:

That I have made careful inquiry at every house in the said city, (or name portion of city for which assessor acts), in order to ascertain the names of all persons over the age of 21 years, their resident, who are entitled to vote at an election of the legislative assembly for the electoral district of (naming the electoral division in which the city is situate), and have entered the names of all such persons so found to be entitled to vote on the above roll.

It is made the duty of the mayor and the assessment commissioner if there is one, to see that the assessors duly perform the duties and make the necessary inquiries to obtain the names of all persons over the age of 21 years, residing in the municipality entitled by law to vote at an election of the legislative assembly.

Immediately after the return of the assessor's roll, city clerks without waiting for a revision or correction thereof, are required to make out a correct alphabetical list of all persons appearing by the assessor's roll to be entitled to vote in the said city, and within forty days after receiving the assessor's roll he is to cause at least 200 copies to be printed in pamphlet form and shall deliver these copies as required by the Ontario Voter's List Act and an additional one copy to the assessment commissioner and where there is no assessment commissioner, the assessor if there is but one, and the assessors if there is more than one.

For the purpose of adding and making other corrections in the said alphabetical list without the necessity of a formal appeal, the assessor or assessment commissioner is required within fourteen days after the list has been posted up, to attend at a place to be appointed in the city from 10 a. m. until 9 p. m., of which the clerk is required to give notice in the same manner as in the case of appeals to the court of revision. The assessor or assessment commissioner shall attend at such place during the said hours from day to day as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties.

The assessment commissioner or assessor is required to take a special oath before entering upon his duties, which will be more particularly referred to in the next issue.