

as those used for councillors or aldermen, except the substitution of the words "school trustee" for councillor or alderman, as case may be on said ballot papers.

Under sub section 5 the clerk is required to mark, opposite the names of all separate school supporters, the letters "S. S. S.," and the returning officers are not to deliver to any such person a ballot paper for school trustees.

Sub-sec. 6 provides form of oath required to be made by voters for school trustees.

When elections are held in accordance with section 103 the annual school meeting is not required; this is as provided in section 102. All expenses are paid by the municipality. This is not a large item, being only cost of ballots.

When the election of municipal councillors and school trustees takes place at the same time the column for remarks in the poll-book is used to check those who have voted for school trustee.

The Parish Councillor.

We are in receipt of a copy of *The Parish Councillor*, published in Westminster, England. This paper is the official organ of the parish district and county councils of England. It has assumed a great responsibility, and its educative influence will do much to enable councillors to properly understand the principles of self-government. The act of 1894 introduced many important reforms. Parish, or as they are in Ontario called, township councils, were this year elected for the first time. These councils have to contend with vested rights too numerous to mention, and are under the supervision of the local government board. It will be many years before the people are educated sufficiently to be entrusted with the full management of their local affairs.

The success of municipal institutions in Ontario is owing to their representative character and spirit of independence created thereby. We have not had the difficulties to contend with that now confront the English municipal officer.

An interesting department of *The Councillor* is that in which the grave abuses of usury in England are exposed. The following able articles referring to this question have already been published:

1. List of money-lenders, rates of interest, etc.
2. Money-lenders and the fee system.
3. Description of Money-lenders' Secret Circle.
4. Exposure of Wilberforce, Williams, Wood and Hart.
5. "Religious" money-lenders.—The Carleton bank.
6. Kirkwood and Provincial Union bank.
7. In the money-lenders' clutches.—Plain truths for villages.

We had no idea that such a state of affairs existed in any country. Papers containing the whole series may be obtained by addressing *The Parish Councillor*, 11 Palace Chambers, Westminster, England, the price therefor being two shillings.

Municipal Reform.

Municipal reform is a prominent question in Toronto just now. With a view to obtaining suggestions that will assist in the framing of suitable legislation, the opinions of leading citizens are being obtained. Some of the reforms suggested are as applicable to the smaller towns as the large cities, viz.:

A change of government by commission would be too radical. The right idea is to have aldermen elected for a term of three years, and have them retired in rotation, as is done in the school board and other bodies. If it were not necessary to go to the electors every year we could get a better class of men to enter municipal politics. The amount of time that is lost in canvassing each year to assure election debar business men.

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If all the departments of the city had as capable a head as Engineer Keating the corporation would be better governed. The blunders of our aldermen have cost the city a lot of money, and there is certainly need of a reform of some kind. There are no doubt capable men at our Council Board, but there are others whose places should be filled with better men. The people who vote for these men have themselves to blame for the misgovernment of the city. When they make up their minds to vote for the best man, independent of politics, creed and other prejudicial influences, then, and not until then, will we have a better civic government. The idea of a set of commissioners to conduct the executive work of the city with a fair remuneration is a good one.

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If the people choose to misgovern themselves let them do so by all means. Let them stew in their own juice, and they will perhaps by and by gain experience. If popular government cannot succeed in Toronto, the purest Anglo Saxon constituency on the face of the earth, we may well despair of it succeeding anywhere else. The legislative and the executive work of the city should be separated, and the highest quality of executive power would be secured if there were a permanency of office. Under the present system, where the term of office is for one year, we have one man simply undoing the work that has been done in a previous year. The heads of the departments should have control of the executive work. It is a mistake to have the aldermen as executive officers.

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"A system of municipal government by council has attained every success so far in municipal government, and should not be lightly abandoned. A council should be composed of one alderman from each ward and about half as many aldermen elected from the city at large, all to serve for a term of four years, one-half of the ward aldermen and one-half of

the city alderman at large to be elected at each biennial election. Thus one-half of the council would be always familiar with the public business.

The heads of departments, under proper rules, to appoint subordinates, and to be responsible for their departments to the council. Under a council government there is a greater probability that the business affairs of a great city will be properly conducted than under a system that places the administration of the public business in the hands of two or three men.

"A council government is a public deliberate body, one honest, competent alderman can give publicity through objection on the floor of the council, reported in the newspapers, to the dishonesty or unwisdom of any proposed measure.

"This public discussion of public business is the one essential to good city government. The council government is the responsible government. Every vote cast by an alderman becomes a public record, and that member's responsibility for the result of that measure is absolutely fixed.

A council government corresponds exactly to the system by which all private corporations are managed."

A Heap of Sand.

TOWN PAYS DEARLY FOR LEAVING IT ON THE STREET.

An interesting case from Mitchell which was partially tried at Goderich last fall came up at the Stratford assizes.

The circumstances of the case as reported by the *Stratford Beacon* are as follows: Christina Clark, et al, now of Hibbert, formerly of Mitchell, sued the town of Mitchell and Messrs. Edwards and Campbell for damages for the death of her husband caused by an accident that happened to him while driving along the street in Mitchell, where Edwards and Campbell were building a brick store, and had allowed a heap of sand to remain on the street. The deceased was driving along the street from the station when he was thrown from the rig by it coming in contact with the sand, and sustained injuries which caused his death.

His Lordship recommended that the case be settled out of court. The various counsel retired and after a couple of hours discussion a settlement was reached. The town council of Mitchell was hastily convened and its solicitors' agreement sanctioned. The agreement is that the town shall pay \$875 without costs and the two other defendants, Edwards and Campbell, \$725 and the remaining costs, including costs of the previous trial before Mr. Justice Ferguson at Goderich. Of the \$1,600 awarded, \$1,400 goes to the widow and \$200 to the seven year-old son.