

The Municipal World

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In the interests of every department of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario.

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THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

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ST. THOMAS, DECEMBER 1, 1898.

Debentures of the town of Barrie, amounting to \$135,000, have been guaranteed by the county council.

The East Flamboro council will, at the municipal elections, take a plebiscite on the abolition of statute labor. Commutation at fifty cents per day is proposed.

County clerks will, as formerly, supply all clerks of local municipalities with the extra forms required for the county council elections. We have supplied about thirty counties.

The first meetings of the municipal councils for 1899 will be held on the second Monday in January, and the county councils will meet on the fourth Tuesday in January.

The York county council has decided to purchase sixteen acres of land to protect the wells and springs upon which the House of Industry at Newmarket depends for its water supply.

A number of county councils will petition the Legislature to pass such legislation as would compel the county in which a crime had been committed to bear the expense of trial when a change of venue had been obtained.

Mr. W. R. Fellows, clerk of the township of Harwich, has resigned. The council passed an exceedingly complimentary resolution in appreciation of his excellent and efficient service during the past thirty-eight years.

The expense of maintaining boys at the Industrial School costs Simcoe county about \$1,000 annually. The council recommend that all boys up to 16 years should be sent to the Reformatory, where they are taught trades and a good education, thereby fitting them to earn an honest living.

Why is it that the position of mayor is so much more honorable than that of councillor? Is it not largely because the mayor is the representative of the whole town, while a councillor only represents a small section of the town? Abolish the ward system, have every councillor elected by the whole town, and the position of the town councillor will be a highly honorable one.—*Brockville Times.*

This issue of the WORLD is later than usual. This was owing to the large amount of work connected with the question drawer, and the importance of many of the questions bearing on the nomination and election law. Reports of charity conference and other matters are unavoidably crowded out. The January issue will be sent out in time for the first meeting of all councils.

At a recent session of the Barrie council "a by-law was passed authorizing Hewson & Creswicke to take proceedings in the name of the Corporation alone or jointly with the treasurer of the county of Simcoe, the Attorney-General and Treasurer of Ontario, the Receiver-General of Canada, and of C. H. Ross, police magistrate, against Henry Bird, late town clerk and police court clerk, to compel him to pay over certain fines and fees belonging to the town and not yet made over by him." Competent auditors should be appointed to protect a clerk from such a formidable list of possible plaintiffs.

The York county council will petition the Legislature, praying for such amendment to the Voters' Lists Act and Election Act as will compel the returning officers at elections for Parliamentary purposes, to obtain the voters' lists required for their respective electoral districts from the several municipal clerks within such districts, and that such local clerks be declared custodian of voters' lists. The council discussed the question in committee of the whole, when it was pointed out that the municipal clerk would be more competent of having these lists correct. Several cases were cited where names were left off the voters' list by the copying of the lists by the clerk of the peace, and errors like these could be easily brought home if the municipal clerks were responsible for them.

The West Zorra audit has been the subject of considerable newspaper discussion, in which the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Auditor, the auditor, the treasurer, the solicitor and the township

council have been interested. The treasurer has retained the confidence of the councillors who, by resolution, completely exonerate him from all charges reflecting on his honesty in dealings with the township. Auditor McPherson, of Windsor, is not satisfied with the way his report has been disposed of, and vigorously defends himself in a lengthy letter. We have no desire to criticise any of the proceedings, but would say that auditors should, in future, be instructed to collect monies found to be due the municipality, and that their reports should not become public property until all matters therein referred to are finally disposed of. A ratepayer's real interest is in the financial result of an audit, and the council can deal with an official as may be necessary to protect the interests of the municipality.

The council of every town, township and incorporated village is required to hold a meeting on the 15th of December, and immediately thereafter publish a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures. All accounts outstanding should be passed. This is intended to be the last meeting of the year, and the legislature have limited the powers of councils after that date by the following section:

"But no council of any local municipality shall after the 31st day of December in the year for which the members were elected, pass any by-law or resolution for the payment of money, or which involves, directly or indirectly, the payment of money; nor shall they enter into any contract or obligation on the part of the municipality; nor appoint to or dismiss from office any officer under the control of the council, or do any other corporate act after said date, except in case of extreme urgency. But the council may do any necessary business before the 31st day of December, which may, having regard to the circumstances, be done at such time, and which, by this act, they are now authorized to do at their last meeting.

If the number on your address label is 90 your subscription ends with this issue. We would be pleased to have renewal orders from all, and from those who are retiring from municipal life, a recommendation to their successors in office. We have to depend largely on the co-operation of those in office and to them our thanks are due for the good progress made during the year. The Supply Department is now larger than ever before, and we are in a position to fill all orders for blank forms, books, stationary and office supplies, required by municipalities. The use of forms ensures correctness and uniformity in municipal work, and when properly prepared direct attention to many important matters that might otherwise be overlooked.

A number of constables were being examined in matters relating to police duty. One of them was asked, "if you were informed that a lion had broken loose from a menagerie and was roaming about the streets, what steps would you take?" "Jolly long steps, sir!" replied the constable.