

The Municipal World

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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

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If the number on your address label is 144 your subscription ends with this issue.

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We have to thank both the members of councils and officials for their cooperation during the past year.

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We will be pleased to receive renewals of subscriptions from all, and from those who may be retiring, a recommendation to their successors.

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During the year we have published answers to 1080 questions submitted by our subscribers. This is a decided increase over any previous year. The character of the questions has also improved.

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No other publication does as much for its subscribers as we are doing. Appreciation of our efforts can best be expressed by patronizing the supply department, which is most complete in every particular.

Our stock of election supplies, sufficient for the whole Province, is ready for immediate distribution. The possibility of a delay in the mails (which always are crowded at this season) or a mistake on the part of an express company, should be considered and election supplies ordered at the earliest possible date.

Although we always prefer direct orders a few municipalities procure election supplies through a local stationer or printer. When placing orders of this kind, specify MUNICIPAL WORLD forms. This will insure satisfaction.

The annual catalogues will be forwarded during this month in souvenir form to every municipality

We are desirous of hearing from subscribers generally in reference to the following questions:

1. What particular feature of the WORLD pleases you most?

7. Is there any subject you would like to see referred to in the WORLD?

3. Are there any improvements you could suggest?

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The month of December is usually one of the busiest for municipal officers and councillors, the former have to prepare for the election and the latter to secure election. This always increases the demand for legal and other special information. Subscribers should take advantage of the "Question Drawer" in preparing for the canvas or Nomination Day. All the questions will be answered promptly by mail during this month. The WORLD office will be kept open evenings from December 15th to January 3rd, so that all who may decide to communicate with us by telegraph or telephone at the reduced rates, may do so and receive prompt attention.

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Mr. John Speirs, treasurer of the Town of Sandwich has resigned, and Mr. C. H. Ashdown, the clerk, has been appointed to that office in his stead.

* * *

Mr. Jonas Gosnell, of the township of Orford, has been appointed clerk of the county of Kent, to succeed Mr. J. C. Fleming, who was recently appointed treasurer of that county.

* * *

Mr. Hugh Murray, who, since the year 1869, has been clerk and treasurer of the township of Bruce, died last month. A portrait of Mr. Murray, and a brief biographical sketch, will be found on page 127 of the WORLD for the present year.

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A by-law to fix the assessment of D. Maxwell & Son's factory for ten years at \$25,000 was voted on by the electors of St. Marys, last month, resulting as follows: For the by-law, 470; against, 104. The necessary three-fifths of the eligible voters was 445.

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The introduction of politics into municipal elections is sometimes most objectionable. Candidates who are politically ambitious should not be allowed to further their own interests at the expense of the municipality.

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Good municipal officers can only be secured by the united action of interested citizens who have the courage to vote for or against men and measures regardless of the fact that they are supported or opposed by a particular party.

Voting on By-Laws and Municipal Elections on Same Day.

A large number of by-laws will no doubt be submitted to the electors of municipalities throughout the Province on the 5th of January next, the day fixed by statute for holding the municipal elections. The idea seems to prevail in many quarters that the Voters' Lists, poll books and other forms required by the statutes to be used at municipal elections will also answer for taking a vote of the electors on a bonus or money by-law. To prevent possible future litigation and expense, we desire to call attention to, and emphasize the fact that this cannot legally be done. The Voters' List required to be used at elections of municipal councils (parts I and II of that last finally revised and certified to, by the County Judge, or other proper official, for the municipality) cannot legally be used when the voting is on a money by-law. The qualifications of the electors present a wide difference, as will be seen by a reference to Secs. 85, 86, 87, 353 and 354 of the Municipal Act. In the latter case, the Voters' List should contain only the names of those persons "appearing by the then last revised assessment roll of the municipality to be entitled under the provisions of Sections 353 and 354 of the act," to vote on the by-law. This list should be prepared by the Clerk of the Municipality from the *then last revised assessment roll*, and wholly without reference to the *then last, revised Municipal Voters' List*, and delivered by him to the several deputy returning officers before the poll is opened, under the authority of sec. 348 of the act. The names of the persons so entitled to vote should be entered by the clerk in the poll books for the several polling sub-divisions, before they are delivered by him to the deputy returning officers. Then again the forms of ballot, the directions for the guidance of voters, the declaration and appointment of agents, and the oaths to be taken by electors are different in form, and the filling in by the deputy returning officers of the other incidental documents are different in every particular. Separate sets of election envelopes must be supplied, otherwise the municipal election and the by-law ballots would have to be mixed together.

It is true economy to avoid possible litigation and trouble in case of a scrutiny or recount in all matters as important as municipal elections and voting on by-laws. No municipal council or officer can vary the statutory regulations.

One of the dangers to be guarded against in an election, is making promises to secure votes.

This has destroyed the career of many a councillor who in the excitement of the campaign was led to commit himself. No one who cannot act independently should be elected or appointed to look after the interests of his fellow citizens.