

# The Municipal World

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

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ST. THOMAS, DECEMBER 1, 1897.

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD revised catalogue and price list of municipal supplies has been forwarded in souvenir form, to the clerk of every municipality in the Province. We will be pleased to hear from any clerk who may not have received the copy mailed to his address.

The County Council of Peterborough held a special session to appoint a nominating officer for a County Council bye-election. The question of appointing nominating officers for all the divisions in the county was discussed, but no action taken. The members of the council are no doubt in favor of special sessions.

The County Clerk of Grey recently prepared a statement showing that during 1894-5-6, the average expenditure by all the local municipalities in the county for indigent purposes was \$3,391.89, that an average of 96 persons received assistance 42 of whom would be eligible for admission to a House of Industry.

With this issue we bid adieu to many subscribers who are retiring from municipal life, and while we would like to have renewal orders from all, the most we can expect from the great majority of them is a recommendation to their successors in office. A special publication such as ours must always depend largely on the co-operation of those in office and to them our thanks are due for any measure of success attained. We are desirous of hearing from subscribers generally in answer to the following questions:

1. What particular feature in the WORLD pleases you most?
2. What special article or regular feature interested you least and why?
3. Is there any subject you would like to see referred to in the WORLD?
4. Are there any improvements you can suggest?

The Simcoe County Council have decided to erect a House of Industry at Beeton. As an inducement the county is to receive a cash grant of \$500 from Tecumseh Township and free water and light, telephone service and fire protection from the town.

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During the past year we have answered and published 820 questions submitted by 465 correspondents. This is an increase of nearly fifty per cent. over the year 1896. In addition a large number of questions have been answered privately. We do not wish to encourage questions that we are not allowed to publish and after the 1st of January all questions answered will be published unless the sum of two dollars is enclosed with request for private reply.

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Simcoe County Council is having some difficulty in collecting from the sureties of their late treasurer. The case of a Mr. Burton who had given a bond for \$5000 was the first action taken into court in connection with the treasurer's flight. The trial took place at Barrie. The defence raised was that Burton had been induced to execute the bond by representations made to him by certain councillors, which were subsequently declared to be untrue. Judgment has been recently handed down at Osgoode Hall dismissing the action with costs.

The contractors for the municipal cash books have sent out their circulars and we are advised that they cannot be procured from any other firm. The books are all the same size and will last the average municipality for over ten years. Two styles of binding are offered and we would recommend all to procure (style B) price \$3.40 as the best binding, is the cheapest for heavy books to be used constantly for many years. The books contain instructions to treasurers and will be ready for delivery about December 20th.

The council of every town, township and incorporated village is required to hold a meeting on the 15th 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.

## A Warning.

If an officer of any municipal corporation is convicted of any offence under the Liquor License Act, he thereby forfeits and vacates his office and is disqualified from holding any municipal office in any municipality for two years thereafter. A mayor, reeve and councillor of an Ontario town were recently before their police magistrate for obtaining liquor during prohibited hours. Sympathizers will be pleased to know that the charges were dismissed.

Messrs. G. A. Stimson & Co., Debenture Brokers, Toronto, have moved their offices to the Manning Arcade, King St. West.

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Arthur Craig has been appointed treasurer of Simcoe at a salary of \$1,500. The County pays the premiums on all necessary guarantee bonds.

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A work of unusual importance and interest, especially to municipal corporations, has been undertaken by A. H. Clarke and E. I. Scully, of Windsor, who are preparing for publication the drainage decisions of B. M. Britton, Q. C., late drainage referee, and his successor, Thomas Hodgins, Q. C. The design of the work is to so arrange the publication with head notes and references as to readily enable a reader to refer to the different points covered by the decisions. There will be included in the work a copy of the drainage laws as amended up to the date of publication, annotated, with the decisions bearing upon the respective sections. It is expected that the work will be placed in the printer's hands immediately and will be completed and ready for sale early next year.

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County Clerk Bowman of Berlin is a practicing civil engineer, and as such recently gave evidence in an action at law against the town of Galt (a local municipality in the County.) It has been since suggested that Mr. Bowman had no right to give evidence against the town, that being a County official he is indirectly in the pay of every local municipality. We fail to see how Mr. Bowman's professional evidence can be regulated by any County or local council, and in replying to the Galt reporter he puts the matter very properly when after explaining the nature of an oath he says:

"The engineer, however, should never be an advocate, but place the facts impartially before the Court regardless of which side has had the subpoena issued commanding him to attend. This has always been my course in the past and now my position as an official of the county, is a still further guarantee to the different municipalities that, even if they do not wish to retain my services, still my evidence will be given without bias against them."