

# The Municipal World

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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

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ST. THOMAS, OCTOBER 1, 1898.

A committee was appointed at the meeting of the National Health Association at Ottawa to investigate the sanitary aspect of the different kinds of material used in paving streets. The committee is composed of civil engineers, medical experts and bacteriologists. The Canadian members are A. W. Campbell, C. E., Provincial Instructor in Roadmaking, convenor; City Engineer VanBuskirk, Stratford; Dr. Bryce, Secretary Provincial Board of Health; J. J. Mackenzie, Provincial Bacteriologist; J. A. MacGill, Dominion Chemist.

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Dr. J. W. Considine, clerk of the village of Port Dalhousie, celebrated his 78th birthday on Tuesday, September 6th, and is enjoying good health, despite his close proximity to the four score mark. The doctor has been in the practice of his profession for 52 years, having obtained his degree in London, Eng., on May 29, 1846. With his class of nine successful students he was presented to Her Majesty, the Queen, who had expressed a desire to meet the first class graduating after her birthday, and the doctor well remembers the circumstance. He has been clerk since 1872.

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The ex-clerk of the town of Barrie sued the corporation in the Division Court for \$55, the fees to which he was entitled for registration of births, marriages and deaths for the year 1897. The council held that he was not entitled to these by the town by-laws. He got judgment for the amount. In the meantime the town auditor discovered discrepancies in the police court accounts, amounting to \$391.26, for which the council made a counter claim. After fighting it for some time, the ex-clerk admitted the claim, with costs, leaving a balance of \$335.66 in favor of the town.

## The West Zorra Audit.

The Provincial Auditor's Report in reference to the books and finances of West Zorra has been the subject of a great deal of discussion in the Township.

The Council submitted the report to their Solicitor, who considered the recommendation contained in the report, and referred to in our September issue, as follows:

"The recommendations made by the auditor, those that require the Council or Treasurer to proceed in a way that is not required in the statutes (as a number of them do), or in which the statutes leave an alternative, I consider altogether outside the duties of the auditor and a piece of gratuitous advice given for some purpose, which may have been in his mind, for some reason not expressed in the report, and which recommendations you need not consider for a moment."

In closing, the Solicitor referred to the Auditor, and said that in his opinion he did not properly understand the duties of his office, and the purposes for which he has been appointed.

"I do not believe that it is the wish of the Government that any treasurer should be unfairly dealt with, for personal or political purposes, but the intention of the act was to have the various treasurers' accounts put in proper shape, and the duties of an auditor were as much, if not more, for instruction purposes than for taking technical objections to the manner in which accounts are kept; and it was certainly not their purpose that councils should be directed, as they are in this case, to adopt modes of procedure which the Legislature does not require.

I am of the opinion, after considering the manner of conducting same, and the reports on this audit, that your council should request the Provincial Treasurer to investigate the manner in which Mr. Laing and Mr. Macpherson have conducted the enquiry into the treasurer's accounts."

The council passed the following resolution in reference to the report.

"Resolved that this council, having heard the report of Mr. Macpherson and the supplementary report of Mr. Laing and Mr. Macpherson, and having considered the same and the statements therein, and after considering the evidence taken by Mr. Laing in their presence, are of opinion that the auditors' reports do not, in several particulars, fairly represent the treasurer and his accounts with the township, and further that in the supplementary report there are a number of statements as to the acts or wishes of this council which are not correct in fact, and were not expressed or done by the council as in said report stated. This council do hereby instruct A. S. Ball, their solicitor, to have the conduct of Mr. Laing, Provincial Auditor, and of Mr. Macpherson, appointed by him, brought before the Hon. R. Harcourt, Provincial Treasurer, for investigation as to the manner in which the audit had been conducted, as in the opinion of this council the reports are not fair ones on the face of the evidence produced, and that in the meantime the account of Mr. Macpherson be not paid."

With this issue we present our readers with a photogravure of the members of the Oxford Clerks' Association. Their annual meeting was held at Woodstock, in the beautiful new court house, on September 1st, and the report and papers read at the same show that the association is doing a good work. Their example could be followed with equal benefit by many counties in the province.

## Oxford Clerks' Association—Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Municipal Clerks of Oxford County was held in the office of the county clerk at Woodstock on Thursday Sept. 1st., with A. McFarlane, of S. Norwich, president, in the chair, and Wm. Farley, Norwich village, secretary. The others present were: R. J. Henderson, Blandford; M. F. Ainslie, Blenheim; Alex. Bell, Dereham; W. E. Andison, E. Nissouri; R. Seldon, N. Oxford; John Peers, E. Oxford; W. G. Francis, W. Oxford; Jas. Anderson, E. Zorra; E. L. Sutherland, W. Zorra; John Morrison, Woodstock; W. R. Smith, Ingersoll; A. E. Raynes, Tilsonburg; E. Cody, Embro; James White, County Clerk.

The president in opening the meeting gave an address of practical interest to the clerks, after which the following papers were read:

The Duties of Ratepayers, by A. E. Raynes; Liability for Non-repair of Highways, by Alex. Bell, and The Municipal Amendment Act, 1898, by E. L. Sutherland. Each of the papers was discussed by the meeting and many points of interest explained.

Mr. Henderson stated he could not find anything in the Municipal Act that makes it clear whether the registration of drainage by laws in townships which authorize the issuing of debentures is optional as in the case of local improvement by-laws in cities, towns and villages.

During the discussion that followed many instances were given of such by-laws in townships not being registered and the debentures were bought by banks and other investment concerns with the knowledge that such was the case. After considerable discussion the conclusion was come to that the law is not as clear on the point as it should be.

Since the change was made requiring a column in the Voters' List for the occupation of the voter some clerks have put it next after the name and others last or just before that for the post office. In order to have the lists uniform in this respect it was decided to place the column for occupation next after the name.

Many minor matters, which came up as questions asked, were discussed and settled.

The president and secretary were re-elected for another term and instructed to arrange a programme for next meeting, which will be held the first Thursday in September, 1899.

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Mr. Philip Kelly, clerk of Burford, Brant county, was present at the convention, and Mr. McCally represented THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, with samples of blank forms, books, etc., for municipal purposes, which were examined with interest by those present.

"Pete, I used ter have a carriage of my own." "How d'yer happen to lose it?" "I grew too big fer it."