

# The Municipal World

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THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

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ST. THOMAS JULY 1, 1900.

Mr. J. A. Carmichael, of North Bay, has been appointed clerk of the township of Widdifield, to succeed Mr. C. W. Thomson, deceased.

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The city of Chatham is experimenting with tar macadam in the improvement of its streets. Colborne street will be treated in this way, at a cost of \$1.23 per square yard.

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Mr. W. M. Drennan, city clerk of Kingston, died on the 29th of May last. He was appointed to that office in 1897. Mr. L. W. Shannon was appointed to succeed him.

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Mr. David Chenay, M. A., principal of the Training School at Plantagenet, Ont., has been appointed public school inspector for the north riding of the county of Essex.

## A Good Example.

Mono's new assessor has set a good example for his brethren of the craft over the country. He has assessed all property at its actual cash value, instead of one-half as is the prevailing custom among assessors. Before commencing his work he evidently looked at the oath he would have to take on returning the roll, and made his assessments accordingly.

Assessors who care much about their reputation should remember that it is difficult for the average citizen to understand how a man can value a \$7,000 farm at \$3,500 and then swear he has assessed it at its actual value.

Last year's assessor valued Mono at \$725,790; this year's assessor puts it down at \$1,593,105, or more than double; yet both officials swore they assessed it at its actual value!

## A Unique Election.

Even in staid old England municipal electors sometimes choose representatives who develop a capacity for transacting their business in a very remarkable manner. The following (which we take from "London" a leading English municipal journal) is an instance:

The Sidmouth District Council has an extraordinary way of conducting public affairs. At its last meeting the members were called upon to elect a successor to the late clerk, and among the candidates for the position was one of their number, named Orchard. Of course, no objection can legally be raised to a councillor making a plication for such a post, provided that he possesses the necessary qualifications for the important office, and resigns his seat before the application is made. But Mr. Orchard had no such nice scruples, and was determined to obtain the job by hook or crook. Backed up by his personal friends, he took part in the election, and not only exercised his vote against his rivals for the office, but even went so far as to record a vote in his own favor! Several members insisted that the election was illegal on the ground that a salaried appointment came under the definition of a contract. The chairman, while admitting that he was not sufficiently well up in legal knowledge to determine the point, conveniently settled the matter by stating that he could not refuse Mr. Orchard's vote! The objecting members, however, will be well advised if they appeal to the local government board, in order to prevent so scandalous an election being made effective.

It may be pointed out that one of the candidates was Mr. Wolstenholme, the assistant clerk, and gentleman who had carried out his duties with efficiency and to the satisfaction of the council. Apparently Mr. Orchard did not feel quite easy about the shabby manner in which Mr. Wolstenholme had been treated, and immediately after their selection passed a resolution "expressing their high appreciation of the services rendered" by him. Mr. Potbury, who proposed the resolution made the extraordinary remark "that although he was not able to vote for Mr. Wolstenholme, for reasons Mr. Wolstenholme quite understood, he would nevertheless have been pleased to see him elected clerk—a piece of muddle-headed rhetoric worthy of a Sidmouth councillor.

Earlier in the sitting the chairman gave another exhibition of the extraordinary manner in which the council carries on the public business. A surveyor and sanitary inspector had to be appointed, and a number of candidates applied for the post. When the council assembled the chairman coolly announced that, in order to facilitate business, he had opened all the applications, and made concise notes of their contents. Some, he said, in his superior judgment, could be set aside at once as unsuitable, while others were worthy of consideration. The chairman's "concise

notes" were then read out, and, guided by these, the applications were weeded down. The council was delighted with the sagacity of their chairman, and awarded him a vote of thanks for his labors.

## Interesting Bonus Problems.

An interesting problem, under the new bonus legislation of the Ontario Government is presented by a by-law which was voted on at Owen Sound on June 12. Under the by law it is proposed to raise \$6,000 to be loaned for ten years to the Parkhill Basket Manufacturing Company, which undertakes to remove to Owen Sound. Such a grant is clearly illegal under the terms of the bonus bill passed at the recent session of the Ontario House. If the by-law goes through it may, of course, be quashed by any dissatisfied ratepayer of Owen Sound who takes action. But if the ratepayers are unanimous, it then becomes a question who will enforce the law. No case is known where a municipality from which an industry has been enticed away has itself taken action to quash a bonus by-law of another municipality passed to its detriment. It looks, therefore, as if the Attorney-General's Department might have to intervene in the interests of justice, though it was certainly never contemplated that the Attorney-General in person should supervise the working of the new bonus measure.—*Ingersoll Chronicle*.

## Municipal Sanatoria In Canada.

An act has been passed by the Ontario legislature to provide provincial aid for the establishment of sanatoria for consumptives. It enables the councils of counties, cities, or towns separated from counties, to establish sanatoria for the treatment of person suffering from consumption; provides for the management of the sanatoria by a board of not more than five trustees; enables municipalities to combine for the purpose of establishing sanatoria, and authorises the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to make a grant not to exceed one-fifth of the sum expended on the site, and not more than \$4,000 altogether, for the purpose; the site and plans to be approved by the Provincial Board of Health.

## Municipal Ownership Pays.

Portland, Ind., paid \$17,140 for its electric light plant in 1895; improvements since have made the total cost \$20,344. Including the saving in cost of street lights, which was \$85 a year under the private company, the profit to date is \$15,697. Well?

Union City, Tenn., has found that city ownership of electric light and water plants more than pays its own way, and now you couldn't pay Union City from public ownership of those utilities with anything less than a tornado. Net profit last month, \$235.87; population served, about 3,000.