

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

The third annual meeting of the Ontario Municipal Association opened in the county buildings in the city of St. Catharines on September 11th. The president, Mr. M. Y. Keating, of St. Catharines, read an address; following which Mayor McIntyre made a short speech welcoming the visitors. Mr. E. J. Reynolds, town solicitor, Brockville, responded on behalf of the association, after which the standing committees were appointed. Ald. Chas. A. Wilson, of St. Catharines, then moved, seconded by Ald. W. P. Hubbard, of Toronto, a resolution expressing the sorrow and sympathy of the convention in connection with the recent attempted assassination of the president of the United States. The resolution was passed unanimously and a copy was ordered to be forwarded to the secretary of state at Washington for transmission to President McKinley.

The committee on topics recommended the reconsideration of several clauses of last year's report. In addition to those clauses three other clauses were added, as follows:—

That the Act relating to the cutting and trimming of shade trees be amended to allow municipalities under 100,000 inhabitants the privilege of cutting down and trimming the trees on the streets without it being necessary to pass a by-law, and recompense individuals for the loss of the trees.

"That private schools not denominational, and whether incorporated or not, should be liable to assessment.

"That the Municipal Act be amended to make the time for receiving nominations for municipal elections be one hour, between 10 and 11 a.m., on nomination day."

This amendment was thought necessary, owing to the recent claim that the hour referred to in the present Act ran on indefinitely from the nomination of each candidate.

The resolutions adopted at the recent Dominion convention in Toronto were taken up, and after some discussion on some of them, they were all adopted. A resolution was passed protesting against exemption from municipal taxes under

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private bill, but such exemption should be embodied in the general tax.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, E. J. Reynolds, town solicitor, Brockville; First Vice-President, R. P. Slater, Mayor Niagara Falls; Second Vice-President, J. B. McIntyre, Mayor of St. Catharines; Secretary, S. H. Kent, Assistant City Clerk, Hamilton; Assistant Secretary, John T. Hall, Assessment Commissioner, Hamilton. Executive Committee—Mayor Collins, Dundas (Chairman); C. A. Kingston, City Clerk, London; Thos. Caswell, City Solicitor, Toronto; John Kennedy, Mayor of Guelph; Ald. Hubbard, Toronto; Ald. Champagne, Ottawa.

A NEW STREET PAVING MATERIAL.

Mr. George Livingstone, of Westminster, England, is an advocate of a new street pavement known as the sanitary block. The blocks are composed of bitumen from Lake Trinidad, mixed with pulverised stone in certain proportions. The bitumen is refined by steam and is mixed with the necessary flux to produce the asphaltic cement; it is then thoroughly and mechanically mixed with the crushed stone at a temperature of 300 deg. Fahr. The material is then formed into a homogeneous block, each block being subjected to a pressure of 125 tons.

Mr. Livingstone says: Hitherto municipal authorities have had practically to choose between two kinds of pavement,

wood and asphalt, both excellent pavements, each having special advantages under certain conditions. Asphalt, for example, is sanitary and durable, but its use on main thoroughfares is objected to by many local authorities and their engineers, because it is unquestionably dangerously slippery under certain conditions of weather. Wood paving has many advantages, and its introduction into this country has undoubtedly been a great boon to the community, more particularly to Londoners, which those who can remember Piccadilly and other leading thoroughfares in the metropolis in the old days of stone paving which it supplanted, will readily admit. Wood pavement has the advantage of being comparatively noiseless, fairly durable and economical, and affords, when in good condition, safe foothold to horses; is easily cleaned and repaired, but it is not non-absorbent, however treated, and it is subject more or less to expansion and contraction. It is, consequently, not the most sanitary. While, therefore, I do not wish to say one word in disparagement of either wood or asphalt, two of the best pavements hitherto in use, though the selection of the material to be used for the former is a matter of some importance, I claim for the sanitary block that it possesses all the advantages both of wood and asphalt, with none of the disadvantages of either; and I have every confidence that it will, on its merits, win its way in time to public favour.

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