

MONEY AND MUNICIPALITIES.

A curious statement was made to the Monetary Times the other week by a prominent bond broker. "We will bid for the municipal securities of very few towns or cities in—" and the broker named a certain district. "There is too much crookedness there in official circles." Wherein municipal officers have food for reflection.

Those few who make a practice of indulging in the gentle art of graft—the word is loathful, but so is the practice—may see at once what harm is wrought to the credit of their respective municipalities. Many instances have occurred of late which show that municipal life generally is not as clean as it might be. Instances have come to light of cooked accounts, of attempts to obtain a commission, or familiarly a "rake off," on various business transactions, and of other such practices. If a little more honour were employed, a little more foresight exercised in places where it is now lacking, a desirable change might be effected. The damage done is not simply personal; it is municipal.

NEWS AND NOTES.

A census taken last week shows the population of Regina to be 8,975, excluding transients.

The first estimate for Calgary waterworks scheme has been passed by the city engineer and paid, the amount being \$3,676.

The population of the city of Toronto is now 287,201. This is an increase of 14,601 over the population of last year, 272,600.

Nearly every manufacturing plant in Guelph, Ont., is working on good time, and the indications for the winter there are reported as hopeful.

Montreal is spending \$11,030,000 this year, of which \$2,000,000 is on account of the new aqueduct and \$2,416,000 on account of permanent works.

Mr. Charles H. Mitchell, C.E., has been agreed upon by the Toronto Board of Control as assistant to City Engineer Rust at a salary of \$4,000 per annum.

The ratepayers of Medicine Hat will vote on October 9th regarding an issue of \$15,000 20-year waterworks debentures. Interest will be paid at the rate of 5 per cent.

The ratepayers of the School District of St. Claude, No. 788, Manitoba, will vote on a by-law to issue \$7,000 debentures for school purposes on October 16th.

The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board have passed the application for the annexation of East Toronto to the city of Toronto. The change will have effect on December 15th.

Stratford, Ont., assessment returns for 1907, show a total taxable assessment of \$6,638,000, which is an increase of \$140,512 over 1906. The population is 14,489, an increase of 427.

The approximate value of Toronto tax sale lands is \$700,000. The debentures standing against the lands sold amounts to \$400,000. The amount received is \$515,100, and the instalments yet to be paid amount \$27,594, making the total amount \$542,694.

The village of Weston, Ont., has issued debentures for \$14,000 to meet the loan by the Equity Fire Insurance Company, on which judgment has been given resulting in the village being taken possession of by the sheriff.

A petition for the formation of a new municipality to be named McCreary, with headquarters at McCrear, Man., it is being circulated and largely signed by residents of the territory to be included, which comprises a total area of seven townships.

Receipts of the municipality of Montcalm, Man., for the seven months to July 31st, were \$22,681; expenditures, including an overdraft at the Merchants Bank of \$10,840, amounting to \$21,282. Assets stand at \$46,094.

The Bell Telephone Company has secured a renewal of its exclusive franchise in Hamilton, Ont. It will pay \$4,000 instead of \$2,900, a year, as formerly, and will give the city 150 telephones for civic use at \$25 each during that period.

The population of Brantford, Ont., is now 20,633, as compared with 19,809 last year. The total value of lands is \$3,824,345 buildings, \$7,921,710; business, \$1,357,600; income, \$312,305; total, \$13,415,960. The total increase in real property is \$441,275.

A proposal has been made by Lethbridge, Alta., city council to give a street car franchise to a company if it lays rails while the paving is being put down, thus avoiding the

tearing up again. Nothing definite has yet been done, as the paving will not be done till next year.

Cornwall, Ont., town council has struck the general rate of taxation for the current year at twenty and a half mills, to which five and one-fifth mills are added for public schools, and six and nine-tenths for separate schools. The total revenue of the town is \$19,370; expenditure, \$59,386.76, leaving \$40,016.76 to be raised on an assessment of \$1,944,229.

Vancouver Civic Finance Committee recommend that the city make a definite offer for the purchase of the waterfront lots on the north shore of False Creek. The total amount involved is \$1,064,000. It is stated as probable that after the acquirement of the property the city would be recouped to the extent of \$200,000 through the sale of frontages not needed for the carrying out of the improvement scheme.

Chatham, Ont., proposes to grant the Bell Telephone Company an exclusive five-year franchise on condition that the wires are laid underground, and that the company agree to install and maintain the city fire alarm system, and operate board and a further reduction made for the rebate of one-the system in connection with the telephone system.

According to a councillor's estimate, the gross taxes of the municipality of South Vancouver, for the year are \$52,906.69, of which \$10,613.50 must be turned over to the school board and a further deduction made for the rebate of one-sixth granted for early payment of other rates than the school fund. Against this revenue the municipality has already expended \$30,588 on road work of various kinds.

ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES.

Population and Assessment Figures for 1907—Large Increase in Values During Recent Years.

The population and assessment value of the Ontario municipalities has increased steadily during the past ten years. Taxation has gone up correspondingly, amounting last year to \$8 per head, or 17 mills on the dollar. In 1898, the figures were \$6.11 and 15.1. The rural districts naturally come off best in this respect, the cities bearing the heaviest load. This is shown in the following table, which includes taxes imposed for all purposes, including schools:—

		Per head	Mills on \$
Rural	\$6,020,102	\$6.52	11.5
Urban	4,203,766	8.41	23.6
Cities	8,505,301	12.99	22.6
Total	\$19,529,169	8.88	17.0

The figures were slightly higher than in 1906, when the total taxation amounted to \$18,021,428 or \$8.41 per head.

Some Striking Increases.

The greatest gain was in the case of business assessment. This rose by 126 per cent. Taxable increases gained by 110 per cent., and real estate by 38 per cent.

Last year's assessment was distributed as follows:—

	Real estate	Business	Taxable
	assessment	assessment	income
Rural \$	587,619,115	\$ 4,622,690	\$ 2,832,831
Urban	156,145,587	17,328,222	4,644,311
Cities	321,518,357	40,230,783	14,039,181
Total ..	\$1,063,283,059	\$62,181,695	\$21,516,323

While the population of the municipalities had increased from 1898 to the end of 1907 by only 9.9 per cent., the assessed values increased by not quite 42 per cent.

	Pop.	Assessed values
1898.....	2,001,350	\$ 809,184,833
1905.....	2,101,260	1,036,910,130
1906.....	2,142,746	1,103,504,638
1907.....	2,200,363	1,148,981,077

Figures for Principal Towns.

The population and assessment of the principal towns and cities of Ontario last year were as follows:—

	Assessed population	Total assessment
Barrie	6,783	\$3,039,460
Belleville	9,515	4,018,930
Berlin	13,083	5,876,798
Brantford	19,899	10,452,116
Brockville	8,926	3,680,180
Chatham	9,942	4,885,409
Cobourg	4,883	1,687,160