

and the mode in which it should be exercised is the object of all who are in any manner concerned in the administration of municipal affairs. He also said that as these matters are to be determined by municipal councils, seldom containing men versed in the laws and often acting without the aid of professional advice, the importance of a guide becomes manifest.

This Manual was found to be so useful that a second edition was called for nine years later, in March, 1867. His third edition was published in September, 1874. The fourth edition was edited by Mr. F. J. Joseph and came out in October, 1878, shortly after, as he says in his preface, the death "of the able and gifted Chief Justice of this Province, the original editor of this work." A fifth edition by Mr. Joseph appeared in 1889. A much larger volume (of 1128 pages) was the result of the industry and research of the late C. R. W. Biggar, Q.C., in 1900, and to this work the profession have since looked for light and assistance in the interpretation of the most important subject of municipal law in the Province of Ontario, and in other Provinces where similar enactments are in force.

Anyone who has followed the course of legislation knows something, though no man could keep track of them, of the amendments to the Municipal Act and the Assessment Act which kept the King's Printer busy from time to time until now.

The changes that have taken place since 1900 have been so numerous that the profession and those connected with municipal affairs have now demanded a new book on the subject. This brings us to the year 1917, when the Canadian Municipal Manual, edited by Sir William Ralph Meredith, Kt., Chief Justice of Ontario, saw the light.

The profession and those concerned in the administration of municipal and assessment law in their various subdivisions are fortunate in that one, who may safely be said to be the highest living authority on such subjects in the Dominion and perhaps on the continent, has devoted himself to their elucidation and explanation.

The intention of the authors and the editor of this great work was to produce, as they have done in an eminent degree, a book