

# The Municipal World

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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

K. W. MCKAY, EDITOR,

A. W. CAMPBELL, C. E. } Associate  
J. M. GLENN, K. C., LL.B. } Editors

TERMS.—\$1.00 per annum. Single copy, 10c.; Six copies, \$5.00, payable in advance.

EXPIRATION OF SUBSCRIPTION.—This paper will be discontinued at expiration of term paid for, of which subscribers will receive notice.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers, who may change their address, should give prompt notice of same, and in doing so, give both old and new address.

COMMUNICATIONS.—Contributions of interest to municipal officers are cordially invited.

HOW TO REMIT.—Cash should be sent by registered letter. Draft, express or money orders may be sent at our risk.

OFFICES—334 Talbot St., St. Thomas. Telephone 101.

Address all communications to

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,  
Box 1321, St. Thomas, Ont.

ST. THOMAS, FEBRUARY 1, 1902.

Mr. Jones I. Jenkins has been appointed clerk of the township of King, in succession to Mr. Chas. W. Patterson, deceased.

\* \* \*

Mr. H. W. Lawlor, barrister, has resigned the office of town clerk of Hawkesbury and Mr. Denis Doyle has been appointed to the office in his stead.

\* \* \*

Mr. T. J. Ryan, who, for the past three years, has very acceptably filled the office of mayor of the town of Sudbury, decided, this year, to retire from office.

\* \* \*

The voting machines are being strangled at their birth. The Syracuse common council, last week, voted to abolish the sixty voting machines which have been in use there some years, alleging that they were the cause of disfranchising one thousand voters at the late city elections.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. W. Trewin, who, for the past fifteen years, has faithfully and efficiently filled the office of clerk of the township of Tehkummah, in the District of Manitoulin, has resigned, consequent on his intended removal to the Slate River Valley, in the neighborhood of Fort William and Port Arthur.

\* \* \*

At a banquet, recently given by Mayor Hamill, to the council, clerk, treasurer and press of the town of Meaford, town clerk Albery was presented, by his worship, with "Seager's Magistrates' Manual" as a mark of the appreciation of the mayor and council of his past services as town clerk. Mr. Albery made a feeling and suitable reply.

## Ottawa's Next Road Convention.

The Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association has issued an invitation to those interested in the question of road improvement to attend a convention to be held at Ottawa, on the 14th and 15th of March. This association was formed about a year ago, and is composed largely of representative municipal men, from the eastern counties of the province. When the association was formed the agitation for improved methods in roadmaking had gained some ground, and when the call for a conference was issued it was most heartily received, and the liberal response was shown by a splendid meeting of the best municipal men of the section.

Those who accepted office in the new organization were all men willing to sacrifice the necessary time, labor and means, to make the work of the association as effective as possible, with the result that possibly no organization of its kind had accomplished so much in the first year of its existence. Mr. H. B. Cowan, editor of the *Ottawa Valley Journal* was largely instrumental, through the columns of his paper, in awakening the general interest that secured so large a convention for organization. He assumed the duties of secretary, and much of the successful work of the organization is due to the careful planning, zeal and enterprise. The large amount of work involved in organizing and managing the good roads train, which was conducted by the association, the large amount of detail arrangement in securing funds, labor and material, necessarily involved a great amount of work, which was cheerfully undertaken and successfully carried out.

This train traversing the eastern part of the province, building sample roads as it passed along, was a revelation to many people, in not only demonstrating the correct principles of road construction, but clearly showing on their own ground how easily, quickly and cheaply perfectly good roads can be made by employing the necessary implements and properly managing them. Graders, crushers and rollers were used under varying conditions, in different soils, and handling different materials, showing in actual practice, work, which to the average mind, would otherwise appear almost impossible.

This work of illustration has done a wonderful amount towards advancing the agitation for better methods, better system, more care and skill in doing the work, and the employment of better implements and their more careful management. A very important part of the work of the association was, after deciding upon the wisdom of using concrete for sluices, culverts, etc., to engage an experienced man to go about among the townships, making samples of concrete pipe and concrete arches, practically showing the local men how to do this work. The great benefit resulting from this one move can be appreciated by other sections which

have gained their experience at the cost of many failures, defective work and large outlay.

In fact the attention of the eastern public has been called to the many economic phases of the road question by this association during the last year as never before, and now they are beginning to realize what a big problem remains to be solved and how much every ratepayer is financially and otherwise interested. If other parts of the province were to copy the example of the eastern counties and form district associations comprising eight or ten counties benefits would result which cannot be otherwise obtained.

The marvellous good done by the dairy, livestock and kindred associations is felt by the country as a whole, and appreciated by every individual directly affected. The laying down of proper plans, purchasing of necessary implements, the proper management, providing of a just system for levying road-tax, preparing of necessary specifications for doing work, and employing competent men to direct operations, will all work economies not now dreamed of by the average tax-payer.

The Eastern Good Roads Association while designed to serve a certain district only, have expressed a desire to have people from all over the province join them at this meeting, and there can be no disputing the fact that the small amount required to send a live delegate from each municipality will be returned to them many fold, and it is to be hoped that every municipal council in the eastern district, and as many more as can possibly do so, will be represented.

The time for stereotyped speeches and papers on the benefits of good roads has gone by and these will form no part of the programme. But the whole time of the convention, it is understood, will be devoted to a discussion of how best to manage our roads and improve them with the means at our disposal. How can we manage our roads so that their condition will be improved to the extent of every dollar and every cent spent upon them?

A by-law to commute statute labor in the township of Cumberland, similar to that passed by the council of the township of Pelham, except that there are only two divisions, north and south, at 50 cents per day, was submitted to the ratepayers at the election January 6th and was carried by 110 on a two-third vote of the municipality but has not been finally adopted yet.

\* \* \*

When public interest requires that party government shall be excluded from municipal councils and that appointments be made from among the most meritorious, irrespective of their political or religious opinions, it is the duty of every member in making appointments, promotions or removals to conform to these interests.