



The Municipal World

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of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario

K. W. MCKAY, EDITOR.

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

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OFFICES—334 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, Phone 189.

ADDRESS all communications to THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, LIMITED,
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During 1903 THE MUNICIPAL WORLD subscription list was the largest in the history of the paper. The Question Drawer occupied 327 columns and contained answers to 1,298 questions in reference to municipal law. There was also a large increase in the number of private questions which were not published. Subscribers have found the Question Drawer to be a convenient and reliable independent source from which to obtain legal and other information in reference to their duties.

Co-operation on the part of municipal officers generally with THE WORLD and its supply department has, in the past, done much to improve the municipal government of Ontario.

Subscription orders are usually for the whole council and its officers at the expense of the corporation.

The expense is trifling when compared with the possible benefits to be derived from the special privileges extended to subscribers.

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD should be in the hands of every councillor and official interested in the good government of his municipality.

The lamentably sudden death of Mr. Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., of Woodstock, which occurred in London (Eng.) on 29th December, removed one of our most prominent public men. As editor of the *Sentinel-Review* he promoted the successful organization of the dairy interests of the Province and the formation of the Ontario Good Roads Association of which he was President. He was one of the most active and useful private members of the Legislature. In municipal matters he was in advance of his colleagues. Mr. Pattullo was a scholarly man, an original thinker, and an eloquent speaker. He stood for all that was good in public life.

Municipal corporations should be progressive.

We hope that the extended reference to municipal taxation in this issue will lead to a correct understanding of this most important question.

Continuance in office should be the reward for efficient service. Independent, capable, permanent officials are a necessity in every municipality.

The organization of a department controlling road improvement or a public utility, electric lighting plant, water works, etc., is worthy of the best effort of any one interested in his municipality.

A copy of the index of contents of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD for 1903 is enclosed with sample copies, so that everyone may determine whether the information published in these columns is sufficiently comprehensive to make it worth the subscription price.

The possible co-operation of towns and cities for the purpose of obtaining electric power from Niagara Falls is to be thoroughly investigated. The commission appointed in accordance with the legislation of last session, has engaged an engineer and apportioned the cost to the municipalities interested.

If, in connection with a commutation system, Township Councils would consider the purchase of special gravel wagons, several of which can be drawn by a traction engine, they will do much to solve the problem of economical road building. The only objection to this is that the money paid for drawing gravel is not wasted amongst the ratepayers, who have the votes. Farmers have special machinery for all kinds of work. A council applying the farmers' reasons for this to road improvement work, cannot be progressive without machinery.

The Ontario Statutes for 1903 contains 133 chapters or separate acts. Of the thirty-seven public acts, nineteen refer to municipal and educational matters. Fifty-two private acts were passed at the request of municipal corporations, and twenty-nine other private acts refer to electric and steam railways in which municipalities were interested. Private bills are usually supported or opposed when up for consideration before the Legislative Committees. This accounts for the large number of deputations continually in attendance. Deputations should be composed of those best informed in reference to the proposed legislation. The members of the Legislative committees have a great deal of work to do in session and out. They are continually meeting those interested in private bills. It is always well to include a good speaker on a deputation as it is sometimes necessary to force the attention of the members, from persistent lobbyists.

"THE MUNICIPAL WORLD is regarded by those directly interested in local government as indispensable.

Mr. John Burnett, who for many years faithfully and efficiently filled the office of Clerk of the Township of Middleton, died last month. Mr. D. W. White has been appointed to succeed him.