

days thereafter, any person proposed for one or more offices may resign, or elect for which office he is to remain nominated, and in default he shall be taken as nominated for the office in respect of which he was first proposed and seconded." If the resignation does not take place at the nomination meeting, the person proposed if he wishes to resign must do so in writing signed by him and by a witness. This does not say that the consent of the mover or seconder is requisite, but the courts have held that such consent is necessary. This must be on the principle that all qualified citizens owe it to society to serve the public when properly called on, and can only be released from the obligation by those who have made the demand. It would be well to see that the proposer and seconder are consenting parties. If a person proposed is not legally qualified, the returning officer, if he is aware of that fact, should make it known at the nomination in order that further nominations may be made to ensure a legal election. There might be circumstances in which a returning officer would be justified in refusing to accept a nomination, but as a general rule it is better and safer to lean the other way if the nomination is insisted on, even where the returning officer has a knowledge of the candidate's disqualification.

The first Monday in January will be on the 4th of the month, and the polls will open at 9 a. m. and close at 5 p. m. The deputy returning officers and their clerks and the scrutineers should be in attendance before the time for opening the poll, so as to have the preliminary declarations of secrecy attended to in time to permit of receiving votes without delay at nine o'clock.

The ballot papers are to be obtained by the returning officer, and these with the ballot boxes, certified voters' list, poll book and other necessary papers are to be delivered to the deputy returning officers in sufficient time for the poll. There is a penalty of \$100 if the ballot boxes are not delivered to the deputy returning officer at least two days before the day of polling. The ballot papers should be printed on good quality of paper so that the pencil mark may not be readily seen when it is folded. Some ballots are printed on such soft paper that the slightest pressure of the pencil leaves a mark through the paper, which the deputy returning officer cannot always avoid seeing, and thus knowing how the elector voted. This should not be the case. Very few of these officers wish to know how any one has voted, and it is not fair to make them custodians of such secrets against their will.

We call special attention to J. B. F.'s letter respecting the necessity of clerks giving a casting vote in case of a tie at municipal elections. The framers of the law cannot have taken into consideration the relation in which the clerk stands to the public, or they would not put him in the disagreeable position of antagonism to one half of those he is expected to serve in all other respects without partiality. This and many other matters affecting the office of municipal clerk require amending, which could best be done by and through an organized association of these officers.

Our thanks are due J. G. Stewart, Esq. clerk township of Raleigh, for copies of by-laws, voters list, etc. in pamphlet form. A number of these by-laws are for levying rates for local drainage, and we are pleased to receive them for the information they contain, especially the one advertised in the *Chatham Banner*, which is an immense affair, occupying in that large newspaper two full pages of figures in small type. The labor of getting up such a by-law must be very great. We understand that the amount already expended on draining in the township of Raleigh exceeds \$250,000. Each land-owner pays a proportion according to benefit, the separate amounts being specifically named in the by-law.

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Not having succeeded in completing arrangements for a transfer of the publication of THE MISCELLANY, and finding of late that our time is so fully occupied in the discharge of official duties that we cannot continue to devote the time necessary, we would like if some other person having the leisure would undertake it either alone or in conjunction with us. We regret very much that we cannot continue to give it the attention necessary, as we have received more encouragement than we had anticipated at the outset. Until within a few months other work did not fill up our whole time, but now it is otherwise, and to continue as at present, would necessitate our giving up entirely needed rest and relaxation. This we cannot do, having a regard to health, but if any of our municipal clerks who may have the time to spare will undertake it, we will be willing to assist as far as possible. We will be glad to hear at once from any who are willing to take the publication in hand from the new year so that we can announce it in the December issue.

REPORT OF COMMISSION ON MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

(EXTRACTS CONTINUED.)

The Legislature sometimes made special grants for bridges. We have already mentioned the first special grant, which was for a bridge across the Grand River, and was made in 1809. An additional grant for that work was made in 1810. In 1824 a sum of £250 was granted, of which £150 was to be expended in improving the road in the township of West Gwillimbury, and £100 in aid of the resources of the inhabitants for the erecting of a bridge across the river Trent, at the foot of Rice Lake. In the same year an Act was passed authorizing the justices of the district of Johnstown to raise a loan of £2,500, wherewith to erect a new court house or repair the old one, and to erect new bridges over Yonge and Fish Creeks. In 1826 the Legislature granted £1,200 for making and repairing certain roads and bridges named in the Act. In 1827 an Act was passed incorporating a number of persons, and authorizing them to build a bridge over the Cataraqui, from