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ST. THOMAS, JULY 2, 1898.

The city of Chatham has decided to purchase a steam roller and rock-crusher.

The Berlin Town Council will publish the assessment roll in pamphlet form, including list of all exempted property.

The North Toronto Council has appointed W. J. Douglas, town clerk, to act as assessment commissioner without extra salary.

The June session of the Grey County Council was held at the town of Meaford. Mayor Hamill presented an address of welcome.

The Hamilton *Times* refers to County Clerk Jardine, who officiated for the first time at the June session, as "the council's elocutionist."

The Bell Telephone Company has opposition in Windsor, and are making an effort to secure a renewal of an exclusive franchise. It costs the company \$12 per annum to operate the 'phones.

The Owen Sound *Times*, referring to the high fences in front of town residences, says:

"Did it ever occur to the citizens the heavy tax the maintenance of fences in front of their lawns involves, and that in a town of the size of Owen Sound this should not at all be necessary? It is a matter of common remark by visitors from many Western and Southern Ontario towns that Owen Sound is the "most fenced-in" place they had ever seen. To people who are accustomed to seeing the lawns extend out to the sidewalks—and the sidewalks are now more frequently placed outside the shade-tree line—the sight of a high fence, or even a low paling, is a novelty. But where cows are allowed to run at large, it would be impossible to dispense with fences, and the question which is to be solved is whether it would not cost less to rigorously enforce the by-law against cattle running at large than to erect and maintain miles of fences, which only depreciate the value of the property upon which the fences are.

Committees appointed by township councils to report on bridges, culverts and other matters would do well to make their reports in writing when convenient, and always when the information may be of use to their successors.

The Oro Township Council reports show that they were unable to consider all of the applications for the road machine, and that thirty-six days' work will be performed chiefly on road divisions that have not formerly had the use of the grader.

The Perth County Council have ordered that inmates sent to the House of Refuge must be provided with suitable clothes at the expense of the municipalities sending them, said garments to consist of one complete suit, underclothes, boots, socks and hat.

The Wellington County Council refused to endorse the Mount Forest waterworks debentures—\$25,000—although it was stated that the county would be running no risk and the town would get \$1,000 or more on the strength of the county's name.

The wardens of York and Ontario Counties, accompanied by the members of their councils and invited guests recently enjoyed a pleasant excursion to Niagara Falls. Other county wardens would do well to show their appreciation of the honor conferred in a somewhat similar manner.

After the Assessment Roll has been finally revised and corrected the clerk of each local municipality within the county shall within ninety days, transmit to the county clerk a certified copy thereof under a penalty of not less than ten dollars and not more than twenty dollars, Assessment Act, section 83.

We notice that town and village councils are in receipt of the annual complaint from the owners of vacant lots that their property is being used as a dumping ground by scavengers. The councils of adjoining townships are opposed to the use of the roadsides for this purpose, the Municipal and Health Act should be amended by making it compulsory for every urban municipality to provide a dumping ground for refuse.

A motor car is to be used for the purpose of a daily mail service between Toronto and the Don post-office, calling at Todmorden and Doncaster. The Don post-office is eight miles from the city. The service begins on Dominion Day. This will be the first case in America of a motor van being utilized for mail services. Towns not located on a railway can by the construction of good roads to the nearest station and the use of motor cars enjoy all the privileges of rapid transit at a moderate cost.

A Good Example.

The York County Council Chamber was renovated previous to the June session, an exchange says:

Everything was arranged in apple-pie order, a new oilcloth laid down, the walls fresh papered, the ceiling painted, the platform to the throne recarpeted and the canopy of the throne itself, oh! what a beauty! The chair, newly upholstered in royal blue with royal, blue damask hangings, decorated with large tassels and the crown itself received a coat of red and bronze paint. Altogether the chamber has a very pleasing effect, and the caretaker, Mr. Lawrie, did not spare any pains in filling the windowsills with palms and hyderangers, and warden looked as though he were heir presumptive to a higher throne, except only for the County of York.

When the warden called the council to order each one of the councillors and officials wore a button hole bouquet of roses.

The Wellington County Council adopted the following report on the communication from the County Council of Lanark re committal of indigents to goals: We beg to express our approval with the hope that every county in the Province will find accomodation for their poor where they will not be mixed with and hardened by criminals.

Municipal finance is a subject usually of little interest, but principally because the statistics given are confused, inaccurate and meaningless. Professor Tooke, in *Municipal Affairs* for June, shows why this is so, and pleads for state audit of local accounts in order to reduce the accounts to a uniform basis and thus secure publicity, greater interest and fewer cases of embezzlement. The experience of those states that have tried this plan shows it to have worked very satisfactory.

In a recent issue of the *Leader and Record* published in Deer Park, the roads of York Township are referred to in an article by "Fritz" who says:

No other municipality in the County of York—perhaps in the province—has spent as much money on roads as York, and I don't think there is another township anywhere within a radius of one hundred miles which has worse roads.

The taxes annually levied by the Township of York have reached enormous proportions—equivalent to more than ten dollars per head on every man, woman and child in the municipality! This tax averages more than \$1.32 on every acre of land in the Township of York.

"Fritz," who was on a bicycle trip formed a better opinion of the roads in other townships passed through and says:

In the Township of Vaughan I found the roads somewhat better than in York; but the roads in King Township are away ahead of either. They have a better system of road-making in the latter municipality, and they give more careful attention to repairs. The people seem to take pride in keeping their leading roads in good shape; and, as a matter of fact, the King Township roads cost much less proportionately. In York the cry appears to be, "How much money can I make on this job at the least possible expense to myself?" But in King, the cry is changed to "How can we make the best roads at the least possible expense to the Township?" Quite a difference; and the results are quite different also!