

The Municipal World

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THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

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ST. THOMAS. MAY 1, 1901.

Mr. Frank M. Yarnold, clerk of Port Perry, died last month, and was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Harris, barrister, of that place.

A petition has been presented to the county council from residents of North Oxford and Ingersoll, asking that steps be taken in accordance with the act of the legislature just passed at its recent session to abolish toll roads in the two municipalities.

Mr. Andrew Patullo, M. P. P., of Woodstock, and Mr. Archibald Campbell, Deputy-Commissioner of Public Works, accepted an invitation to attend and speak at the Southern Convention of the National Good Roads Association, at New Orleans, on April 29th and 30th. President McKinley and his Cabinet attended, and addressed the convention. The two Canadians were the guests of the association throughout their trip.

A recent decision by Mr. Justice Strong places Toronto council in rather an unenviable position. It appears that some years ago the city council acquired land from the Grand Trunk railway for the purpose of making a public highway into the lower part of Union Station, on the express promise that they would not designate any part of it as a stand for cabs or express wagons, and then, having obtained the property and laid out the highway upon it, they proceeded to declare the whole street a stand, in defiance of the known objection of the other parties to the contract. These facts were clearly established and formed part of his Lordship's finding, and he quashed the by-law passed by the city council, and issued an injunction restraining them from passing another by law.

The amendments to the Ontario Shops Regulation Act, impose a penalty on owners of shops or factories for neglecting to provide sanitary conveniences. It also repeals section 39 of said Act, and substitutes another in its regulating hours of labor in bakeshops on Sunday. The bill likewise adds a new section to said Act, making it an offence, punishable by fine, for an employer or owner of a barber shop to do work or allow work in his shop on Sunday. All such shops must close on Saturday not later than twelve o'clock at night, under a penalty of not less than \$20, or more than \$50. Bakers and barbers must respect the sanctity of the Sabbath.—Ontario Reformer.

The *Weekly Sun* has the following to say about the recent "scrap-iron" legislation: "One of the principal events at the legislature, recently, was the withdrawal by the government of the bill which provided that street railway, telegraph, telephone, gas and other companies should be assessed and pay taxes upon their full value. These concerns are now assessed not at their real value, but for what the rails, wires, etc., would bring if they were torn up and sold at a junk shop. As a substitute for this bill the government introduced a measure which provides that these concerns shall be assessed, not piecemeal in the different wards of a city or town, but in one block. All the companies, railway, gas, water and others were strong in their opposition to the bill. They vigorously objected to being assessed on the actual value of their property, and persisted upon their iron and steel being assessed at its value as "scrap" or waste.

"Municipal ownership of street railways is gaining ground greatly in Europe," writes the United States consul in Zurich, Switzerland. It seems that in Zurich most of the lines are owned by the municipality, and those that are not are soon to be acquired. Although the lines are constructed very expensively, and soft coal costs from \$6.37 to \$7.72 a ton, yet the fare charged on the street railway is but a shade over two cents a ride when tickets are purchased. There are twenty-five miles of municipal tracks in Zurich. They have no poles to disfigure the streets in that city, as the trolley wires are almost invariably fastened to the houses on each side of the streets, a special sound-breaker being used to prevent the transmission of sounds in the buildings. Where houses could not be used tubular steel poles are set up, which are also made use of for gas or electric lights.

The township of Markham, a short time ago, began proceedings against one James Boyd, of Cedar Grove, for unlawfully cutting and removing timber off the highway. The complainants put in a resolution passed by the township of Markham, in April 1860, wherein a grant of forty dollars was made to open up the eleventh concession from lots one to five, and

Messrs. William Lapp, Samuel Reesor and Samuel Shank were appointed commissioners. The minutes were signed by David Reesor, reeve, and George Eakin, clerk. Squire Wilson, in dismissing the case, said "there was no doubt but old Squire Boyd had purchased the timber from the commissioners when the road was opened, but whether a time limit was set for its removal or not, or whether the trees cut by the defendant had grown up since it was impossible to tell. The case was a trivial one, in any event, as the trees cut were shown to be dead and of little value. They dismissed the case with costs \$10.33, against the township.

The following from *The Mail and Empire*, would indicate a very unsatisfactory and deplorable state of affairs. It affords ample proof of the fact that party politics and municipal councils should be total strangers to each other:

"Since the municipal elections in January last, the city council, being evenly divided politically, has been at a dead-lock over the appointment of committees. None have, as yet, been appointed, and all appropriations for cleaning the streets and other public works have been voted down, and almost the entire work of the city has been at a standstill. The matter has become so serious that a petition was circulated and signed by almost all the merchants and business men of the city calling upon the mayor and aldermen to resign their positions. The request is drawn up as follows:

"We, the undersigned ratepayers of St. Catharines, believing the city's interests to be neglected, do hereby ask you to call a special meeting of the council, and that the mayor and council do resign in a body."

The Board of Health have taken the matter up, and notified the mayor that if the streets are not cleaned immediately they will have the work done under authority vested in them."

Publications Received.

Municipal Accounting, by F. H. MacPherson, C. A., Windsor.

This is a neat little volume that will be appreciated by municipal clerks, treasurers and waterworks officials. It contains a comprehensive treatise on the subject of Municipal Accounts, illustrated by specimens of improved forms of books and reports; it also includes sinking fund and debenture instalment, or annuity tables, for terms of two to thirty years, at rates of interest from two to six per cent. These are not published in any other form, and are alone worth more than the price, which has been fixed at \$3. Orders may be sent to the publisher, or to this office.

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