

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

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OFFICES—334 Talbot St., St. Thomas. Telephone 101
Address all communications to

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

Box 1321, - - - St. Thomas, Ont.

ST. THOMAS, AUGUST 1, 1903.

A new clerk has been engaged by the village of Iroquois. He is paid the municipal salary of \$45 a year.

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Mr. A. M. Chapman, of Frankford, has been appointed clerk of the township of Sidney, in the place of Mr. F. B. Prior, resigned.

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The Bell Telephone Company will remove its poles from Dundas street in Woodstock and place its wires under ground.

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St. Catharines has a council much more liberal towards sports than most councils are. It has just voted \$2,500 towards the encouragement of aquatic sports.

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An exchange considering the question of the franchises enjoyed by electric and other companies says "as near as we can get at it the plan is to capitalize some free favors from the municipality and make the citizens pay the interest."

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The county council of York recently decided upon a schedule of county roads. It is proposed to spend \$150,000 improving them, including a portion of the Ontario Government's million dollar good roads grant. The council will submit a by-law to the ratepayers of the county.

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The Canadian Sewer Pipe Co. desires us to announce that they have no exclusive sales agents and that any customer wishing to purchase pipe can do so from any of their factories direct, namely: The Ontario Sewer Pipe Co., Toronto; The Hamilton and Toronto Sewer Pipe Co., Hamilton; The Standard Drain Pipe Co. St. Johns, Que., where all direct orders will receive careful attention.

Payment of the Cost of Equalizing Union School Assessments.

Section 4 of the Public Schools Amendment Act, 1903, was evidently passed for the purpose of setting at rest what has hitherto been a somewhat vexed question, that is: To what source should assessors look for their pay for equalizing the union school assessments of their respective municipalities? It was the opinion of the Deputy Minister of Education and of a County Judge in a case against the township of Douro under the law as it was formerly, that the trustees of the union school section concerned should meet and pay this liability. The intention of the new section is apparently to fix this liability on the councils of the several municipalities out of which the union school section is formed, in the same proportion as the assessments of the portions of the municipalities out of which the union school section is formed bear to each other. Owing to the unsatisfactory wording of the new section it is doubtful as to whether this intention has been effectually carried out or not. The first part of the section provides that the "fees of assessors and arbitrators shall be borne and paid by the municipality in which the union school section is situate." We do not know nor can we conceive of a case where a union school section is or can be located wholly in one municipality. (See section 46 of the Public Schools Act, 1901). It further provides that "in case such section includes portions of two or more municipalities (which it always does) the said cost shall be borne and paid by the municipalities in the same proportion as, the *equalized assessments of the municipalities* bear to each other." This suggests the question: Does this mean the equalized assessments of the municipalities as a whole fixed by the county council under section 87 and following sections of the Assessment Act, or the equalized assessments of the portions of the municipalities concerned, fixed by the assessors or arbitrators under the provisions of section 54 of the Public Schools Act, 1901? The full text of this section will be found at the foot of the second column on page 134 of our issue for July last.

Education in Municipal Government.

The following article from a recent issue of "Outlook" is worthy of the attention and consideration of those who have at heart the improvement of municipal conditions in this Province:

"The need for intelligent and adequate instruction in governmental matters, and especially in municipal government, is one that has been increasingly felt by educators generally. Appreciating this fact, the National Municipal League has appointed a committee on Instruction on American Educational Institutions, President Drown, of Lehigh University, as

chairman. This committee devoted two years of consecutive activity to the preparation of courses, outlines, and syllabi for colleges, and its two reports constitute an important contribution to the subject, and have resulted in stirring up considerable interest, leading to the introduction of courses in municipal government in a number of institutions. A new committee, with city Superintendent William H. Maxwell, of New York, has been appointed by the league to consider the question in relation to elementary and high schools. This committee, which is made up of leading city superintendents, supervisors, principals of high and grammar schools, and publicists, has taken up its allotted task with vigor, and has just held a meeting in connection with the National Educational Association to outline an extended inquiry to ascertain to what extent instruction of any kind is given in these branches, what fundamental ideas should be developed, and what text books are most helpful. The high character of the personnel of the committee, and the keenness with which it has entered upon the discharge of its duties, give promise of a report of the first importance and value to the schools of the country. If it can suggest a course of study which will produce a more intelligent and enlightened generation of American citizens, especially in regard to their municipal duties, it will have achieved a result of untold value."

By-Laws for Raising Money for the Improvement of Highways.

We think it desirable to draw the attention of members of county and township councils to amendments to section 389 of the Municipal Act contained in sections 86 and 87 of the Municipal Amendment Act, 1903, particularly those contained in the latter section. Section 389, as thus amended, now reads as follows: "Subject to the provisions of the two last preceding sections, every by-law (except for drainage as provided for under the Municipal Drainage Act, or for work payable entirely by local assessment or under section 9 of the Act for the improvement of public highways passed in the first year of the reign of his Majesty King Edward the Seventh) for raising upon the credit of the municipality, any money not required for its ordinary expenditure, and not payable within the same municipal year, shall, before the final passing thereof, be submitted to the electors of the municipality in the manner provided for in section 33^b and following sections of this Act." The effect of these amendments is to enable the councils of townships and counties to pass by-laws for raising by debentures such sums of money as may be necessary to meet any expenditures on highways under the Act for the Improvement of Public Highways (Chapter 32 Ontario statutes, 1901) within the limits prescribed by section 9 of that Act, without first submitting such a by-law to the electors as provided by the Municipal Act.