

The Municipal World

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ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 1, 1904.

CANADA'S OLDEST POSTMASTER.

For nearly fifty-four years Mr. M. Teefy has been in charge of the royal mails at Richmond Hill, thereby earning the distinction of being the oldest postmaster in Canada. He is now 82 years old and was appointed to office in December, 1850, having first come to this country from Ireland in 1824. At the time of the rebellion in 1837 he was a printer in the old *Patriot* office in Toronto. When Mr. Teefy was first appointed postmaster there was no Postmaster-General in Canada, the work of the department being then under the control of the Imperial authorities, with a deputy officer residing in Canada. Those were the days of high postage rates. To send a letter from Richmond Hill to Toronto or fifty miles beyond, cost $4\frac{1}{2}$ pence, or $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents; to Montreal, 23 cents; to Halifax, 64 cents. Mr. Teefy has lived to see wonderful changes in the postal system, not least of which is the immense increase in the volume of mail matter transmitted.

Mr. Teefy is still in vigor of mind and body, despite his fourscore years and two, and besides his duties as postmaster he is clerk and treasurer of the Village of Richmond Hill. Rev. Father Teefy, of St. Michael's College, Toronto, is a son.

Municipal ownership has scored strongly in Glasgow over the construction of the intercepting sewer in connection with the Clyde purification scheme. As a result of the corporation having carried through the work with its own engineers and workmen, there has been a saving to the ratepayers of £42,000, that being the difference between the actual cost of construction and the lowest tender from outside contractors. The lowest tender was put at £120,000, and the highest at £169,000. The labor members of the Glasgow town council and municipalisers generally are to be congratulated on this vindication of their policy and principles.

LIABILITY FOR EXPENSES OF PERSONS AFFLICTED WITH CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.

The latter part of section 93 of The Public Health Act (R. S. O., 1897, chapter 248,) evidently intended that the cost of providing nurses and other assistance and necessaries while under quarantine, should be paid by the person afflicted with the contagious disease, or by his parents or other person or persons liable for his support. If they are financially in a position to pay them, and that, under such circumstances, the municipal corporation and the local board of health should be free from any liability. The tendency of a number of recent judicial decisions is to hold municipal corporations and local boards of health responsible for the payment of the costs and expenses in question, although in the case of *Sellars v. Village of Dutton et al* (7 O. L. R. 646) it was decided that local boards of health are not corporations and cannot be sued by any corporate name. In the case of *re Derby and The Local Board of Health of South Plantagenet* (19 O. R. 51) the local board of health was required to pay an account to a physician for attendance on one Reid, while he was afflicted with the small-pox, although it appeared from the evidence that Reid was quite able to pay the amount.

Mr. J. G. Reesor, clerk of the Township of Jocelyn, has favored us with a copy of the judgment in the case of *Rounthwaite v. Young*, decided on the authority of the *South Plantagenet* case. It is as follows:

In this case the members of the board of health were present in court and consented to have question decided as to whether they or the defendants were liable for the plaintiff's claim.

The case of *Derby v. Local Board of Health of South Plantagenet*, 19 O. R. 51, cited by counsel for defendant is a similar one to this. In that case suit was brought against one Reid and the board of health. At the trial the suit was dismissed as against Reid, who was well able to pay, and judgment given against the board of health. This decision of the trial Judge was upheld by the Divisional Court, and although it does seem to be at variance with section 93 of chapter 248, R. S. O., 1897, yet it has not been overruled, and I am bound to accept it as an authority. The summons will therefore be amended by adding the board of health of the Township of Jocelyn as defendants, and judgment will be entered against them for the amount of the plaintiff's claim, and the suit dismissed as against the defendant Young. The suit not having been brought against the board of health, and having failed as against Young. I make no order as to costs, except court costs which the plaintiff will have added to his judgment.

We also refer our readers to the case of *Bissonette v. Municipality of Stirling et al*, reported on page 175 of *THE MUNICIPAL WORLD* for 1903 (September issue). It seems to us that some legislation should be enacted removing the apparent antagonism between the decided cases and the provisions of the statute, and to settle and remove all possible doubts in the matter.

Mr. J. G. Brown has been appointed clerk of the Village of Arkona to succeed Mr. T. W. Trimble.

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Mr. Thomas G. Allen, of Dungannon, has been appointed clerk of the Township of Ashfield to succeed the late William Stothers.