

cities of the province, look directly to the legislature for any increase or modification of their corporate powers.

The ordinance of 1840 enacted that each district should have a warden and councillors. The warden was appointed by the Governor, and the councillors elected by the inhabitant householders. A parish or township with a population of less than 3,000 elected one councillor, or if it had a population of 3,000 or more it elected two councillors, subject, however, to the Governor's proclamation in such matters. Municipal service as a councillor was compulsory under pain of a fine. One-third of the council retired annually, no councillor receiving any fee.

The district councils were empowered to make by-laws for roads and bridges, to establish schools, levy assessments, impose penalties for refusal to take municipal office, etc. They were also authorized to exercise the powers and duties of the *grand voyer*, whose chief office was thus virtually abolished, under provision for indemnification. No by-law for any public work was valid without a previous estimate and report as to expenditure, and all by-laws were subject to disallowance by the Governor. The councils held quarterly meetings and special meetings called by authority of the Governor. The Governor fixed the place of meeting and appointed the district clerks and treasurers. He could also dissolve a council at pleasure; but in such an event the warden had power to cause a new election to be held. Two auditors were to be appointed annually, one being named by the warden, the other by the council.

By a special clause this ordinance was not to be construed as applying to the cities of Quebec and Montreal. It was complementary to one which was passed at the same time by the Special Council, "to prescribe and regulate the election and appointment of certain officers, in the several parishes and townships of this province, and to make provisions for the local interests of the inhabitants of these divisions of the province." The officials here mentioned were three assessors, one collector, one or more persons to be surveyors of high-