

The Municipal World.

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Address all communications to

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ST. THOMAS, JULY 1, 1893.

In striking the rate of taxation for the year, councils should always see that they are raising sufficient money to pay off all liabilities accruing, due during the year. It is better to have the rate a mill higher and a small surplus at the end of the year, than a note in the bank on which interest has to be paid until the following year's taxes are collected. Many members of councils in this way practice economy.

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We have to thank a correspondent for drawing our attention to a mis statement in article published in the June number, referring to appeals from the court of revision. The business of the court of revision should be completed on the 30th June, and any appeals from the court of revision should be filed not later than the 5th day of July. Our article stated that appeals should be handed in within five days from the first of July. This would admit of appeals being received on the 6th of the month which is wrong.

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It is astonishing to notice the effect that a little experience in council business has on some of the people's worthy representatives. It is often found necessary to procure legal advice in reference to work of the council, and a solicitor is employed to consider the matter and lay his opinion before the council. While these opinions are being considered, it is not an unusual thing for the council to question their correctness, and, in some instances, they have been known to act directly opposite to what they were advised to do.

The same may be said of engineers employed to make reports on sewage, drainage and waterworks systems. As soon as their reports are read to the council it is frequently ascertained that the council were extravagant in employing an engineer, as they found members of their own board in a position to question and dictate changes from their own personal information.

Councils desiring legal advice and special reports should always procure them from those who, in their opinion, are best qualified, or at least whose opinion would

be accepted by the members of the board. It must be rather humiliating for a man who has spent years in acquiring the knowledge necessary to qualify for any of the learned professions, to find that, after being consulted, and giving the question his best consideration, that some member of the council (usually those with the least experience) are inclined to argue the matter with him, and question the correctness of his work.

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The Ontario government with a desire to procure the opinions of councils, public officers, etc., in reference to drainage laws, ditches and watercourses, and amendments to the Assessment Act, have sent out copies of proposed bills to officials and others requesting them to consider the same and report any changes they may desire. As time and space will permit we will endeavor to discuss the more important sections of these acts, and will be pleased to publish suggestions of others in reference thereto with a view to having the bills thoroughly ventilated and understood before the next session of the legislature.

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After statute labor and road repairs have been completed in a municipality, complaint is very often made to the council that approaches to houses and farm gates have been removed. These complaints are generally accompanied by an application for a new approach which generally takes the form of a culvert or tile. Municipal councils are not liable for building approaches to private property over ditches which are necessary to drain the highway. A man is no more entitled to a small box culvert if his property fronts on a highway with ordinary ditches than a man who has a spring creek running along the highway in front of his farm, is entitled to a bridge.

* * *

A pleasant meeting of the city council at Kingston was held recently to signalize city clerk Flanigan's jubilee, he having completed the fiftieth year of his official connection with that corporation. A continuous service by a municipal officer for so long a period is, we believe, without a parallel in the history of Ontario. The council were unanimous in granting their venerable clerk six months leave of absence accompanied by a purse of \$500, which amount was largely supplemented by the citizens generally, who desired to express their appreciation of his valuable service. We join with others in tendering our congratulations.

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The welfare of residents of towns and cities is considered in an act to prevent fraud in the sale of milk, which is only to be in force in municipalities where the council by by-law so declares. A penalty for selling adulterated or deteriorated milk is provided.

Statutory Amendments, 1893.

The Public Health Act has been amended by the addition of sub-section 2 of section 76, which provides that the local board of health of any township may, by resolution, require a physician attending patients suffering from any contagious disease dangerous to the public health, to affix or cause to be affixed near the front entrance to the house, a placard to be supplied by the local board of health, similar to that described in section 17, rule 4, schedule A. The placard to be affixed within twenty-four hours of the discovery of the case.

Sub-section 3 of section 106 is also amended by inserting after the words "boards of health" in the second line thereof, the words "or of any local board of health." This is a most important amendment as it empowers local boards of health to enforce any regulations they may make the same as if they were regulations of the provincial board.

Before proceeding against any one for the violation of regulations, the local board should see that they are published either in a newspaper or by posters distributed throughout the municipality.

The Act respecting Pounds is amended by adding thereto section No. 26, which provides that pound-keepers and every other person who distrains any animal shall, on or before the 15th day of January in every year, file with the clerk of the Municipality, a statement for the year ending on the 31st December prior to that in which the statement is filed, showing: 1st, The number of animals impounded or distrained as the case may be. 2nd, The number of animals sold and the amounts received. 3rd, the sum received as poundage fees and cost of keep by pound-keeper or person distraining. 4th, the amount of damages paid by any party. 5th, all disbursements and to whom paid. 6th, any other receipts and expenditures in connection therewith. The penalty for neglect or refusing to file this statement is an amount not exceeding \$10.

The High Schools Act, 1891, has been amended by adding the following words to sub-section 6 of section 2: "or whose parents or guardians are assessed for an amount equal to the average amount of the resident ratepayers of the district." Section 31 is amended by the addition of sub-sections 7 and 8, which make provision for the maintenance of county pupils by a municipality outside of the high school district. Section 35 is amended by striking out the word "municipality," in the first line, and inserting in lieu thereof, the word "county." Section 37 is amended by the addition of sub-section 4, which provides that the council of any municipality, not included in the high school district, may provide by assessment for the payment of any fees imposed by the county council on county pupils or paid the board of trustees on non-resident pupils who reside in the said municipality.