

damages by by-law, that the township cannot be held to satisfy claims out of the general funds of the municipality and are therefore not liable.

1. Does the passing of a by-law abolishing dog tax exempt the township from liability for damages for sheep killed by dogs;
2. If not, is the municipality liable for sheep killed in unenclosed pasture?
3. Is it essential to prove the killing by dogs to recover damages from the municipality?

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. Yes.

Drainage Act Decisions.

372.—I. J.—1. Is there any legal decision on record requiring a municipal council undertaking drainage repairs under section 72 of the Drainage Act, 1894, to serve the head of a municipality liable to contribute to the cost of said repairs, with a copy of the by-law provisionally adopted by the first-named council, in addition to the copy of the engineer's report and assessment mentioned in section 72 (3).

2. Is there any legal decision on record requiring a council undertaking drainage repairs under section 72 to provisionally adopt their by-law for said work before serving the head of a municipality liable to contribute to the costs of said work, with a copy of the engineer's report and assessment mentioned in section 72 (3).

1. Yes. Broughton vs. Grey. 26 O. R. 694.

2. See the above case. Upon this there was a difference of opinion among the judges of the Divisional Court and the case went to the Court of Appeal where the case was dismissed owing to a difference of opinion among the Judges of that court.

Grant to Indigent and Security.

373.—D. W.—A comes to a municipal council and asks the municipality to lend him an amount of money to send his child to a hospital, offering, as security, a lien on stock. Can the council lend the money on such security, and is such security legal?

For what purposes can a municipal council lend money, and on what security?

Sub-section 12 of section 479, Municipal Act authorizes the council of every municipality to pass by-laws for aiding in maintaining any indigent person at a hospital etc.

Section 13 of the Municipal Amendment Act, 1893, empowers councils to take real estate security for grants made to individuals for charitable purposes.

Would suggest that the council grant the amount required to be expended by the clerk with the understanding that he take a lien on the stock and refund the amount to treasurer when received.

Trustees Working for School Contractor Not Disqualified.

374.—W. E.—Trustees of School Section No. 5 advertised for tenders to build a new school house, and the lowest tender was accepted. The party who got the contract hired two of the trustees of said section to build the new school. Are the trustees disqualified from acting as trustees by working on the new school and receiving money for same.

Not disqualified under Public Schools Act, 1896.

The Problem of Municipal Reform.

(By Hon. H. S. Pingree, in *Arena*.)

The number of persons who write essays on municipal government, preach on municipal government, and deliver orations on municipal government is out of all proportion to the number doing work for municipal government. This condition of things is not the smallest "problem" of municipal government. It would seem at times as though everybody wielding a pen or wagging a tongue were wild to point out just what "work" ought to be done, while nobody pitches in to do the work. But when anybody happens to grab a grub-hoe and strikes out into the municipal field, all the essayists and the preachers and the orators find something wrong about the way the grub-hoe is wielded, the size of the grubber's boots, and the streaks of dirt flying about. There is no elegant way of doing such work. The elegant way is to urge somebody else to do it, and when nobody responds, fall to making speeches of complaint in some elegant clubhouse.

Municipal governing is doing certain lines of work for a city for the least sum of expense. That is all there is in it. But that is much.

A perfect municipal government is a body of men working together for the interests of the city.

A less perfect municipal government is a body of men working for the interests of the city, whose notions of such interests are involved with class, and the building up of certain special interests which they regard as the building up of the city.

A bad municipal government is a body of men hired by special interests before or after elections to steal contracts from a city. Most cities are governed by such interests, and most of the stockholders make speeches and fill columns of the newspapers. Some of these steal a contract Tuesday night, and deliver an oration on municipal reform at the regular banquet Wednesday night, in full dress, before the applauding Society for the Prevention of Chilblains.

Contracts are the centre and almost the entire circumference of municipal government; and in these days of well-defined theory there are but few who do not know what ought to be done in a city.

Municipal ownership will provide the minimum of contracts of importance, and there is no reason why a city should not do all public work, like paving and sewer-construction, etc., by the day.

"I understand, Rastus, that your daughter is quite a singer."

"Deyn't no doubts erbout dat, boss."

"That's lucky. I suppose you will have no difficulty in getting her a position in one of the church choirs in town."

"She tried dat, boss, but it did'nt wu'k. Eb'y time she dun open her mouf it made sich a draf in de chu'ch dat de congregation caught col', sah, an' she hatter resign."—*Richmond Dispatch*.

Publications Received.

Voters' List, Township of Tyendinaga.
A. B. Randall, Clerk.

Voters' List, Township of Georgina.
D. Ego, Clerk.

Voters' List, Village of Port Colborne.
F. D. Noble, Clerk.

A Handy Book on Fire Insurance Law.
By R. J. McLellan, Esquire, of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law. The Carswell Co., Publishers, Toronto.

This volume only contains about 200 pages, but is very complete, and goes fully into the whole Fire Insurance Law of Ontario from 1874, including the Ontario Insurance Act of 1897, in so far as it refers to Fire Insurance (and which is a consolidation of the Fire Insurance Law of Ontario). All of the decisions of the Ontario courts and of the Supreme Court of Canada are quoted and commented upon.

There is a history of the origin and change in the legislation affecting Fire Insurance of Canada.

The volume goes fully into what property may be insured and what may not, the application for insurance, the contract itself and the conditions of the same, the variations contained in the policy as compared with the statutory variations, changes affecting the risk, insurance in other companies, duties of agents, proof of loss and the amount and payment thereof, and all other matters affecting the policy and risk. The index is voluminous and very carefully prepared, and the list of cases appears to be very full and to be freely commented upon.

The volume is a well-prepared and well-written one on the state of the Fire Insurance Law of Ontario, and will be of great value not only to solicitors but to all others interested in Fire Insurance.

From the numerous applications made for space to the secretary of the Toronto Fair the exhibit of road making machinery promises to be full and complete. Arrangements are being made by Provincial Road Instructor Campbell, to have all the implements placed on grounds set apart specially for that purpose so that visitors may judge of the merits of the different machines in operation. This promises to be the best exhibit of the kind ever made in the country, and should be seen by all municipal officers and others interested in road improvement.

A company of tourists are taken over the castle at Blois.

Guide—The room which we are now entering, ladies and gentlemen, is the very one in which the Duke of Guise was murdered.

A Tourist—Here, what's that? I came here three years ago and was shown a room in the wing opposite.

Guide (very calmly)—This room was undergoing repairs at the time.—*Tyt-Bits*.