

Rotation in Office.

The Municipal World favors an extension of the term of councilmen. In the Province of Quebec the councils of parishes, townships, towns and villages are composed of seven members, who remain in office for three years, subject to the condition that two councillors must be elected or appointed two years consecutively and three every three years. In Nova Scotia the mayor is elected annually and a councillor every two years. In England the term of office for a councillor is three years, members retiring in rotation every year.

There is wisdom in any arrangement which provides that the council shall contain some men who are experienced in municipal affairs. When the council of Kingston was composed of aldermen and councilmen there was a change of only some of them annually. The election of one-third of the members at a time, guarded against the embarrassment which might follow the larger degree of change. The present system of submitting all the members of the council to re-election or defeat is not so good for the city. A business is not to be mastered in a year, and especially a business so complicated and so complex as that of the city.

It is true that the man who does his duty without fear, favor and affection, will probably find that public appreciation which will guarantee him a place in the council while he deserves it. But the mutability of municipal institutions is not in their favor, and the more the subject is considered the more fixed will become the conclusion that retirement from the council in rotation is the better plan in the public interest.—*The Kingston Whig*

Guelph Railway By-Law.

The by-law for granting \$25,000 for the construction of a street railway from Guelph to Puslinch Lake and Hespeler was voted on last month. There was a small vote of the property owners. The by-law was carried by a vote of 696 for and 195 against.

The township of East Luther municipal fathers wants a change in municipal assessments. At the last meeting of the council it was carried unanimously that the municipal council of the township of East Luther memorialize the Provincial Legislature of Ontario to grant such legislation as will enable municipal councils to have their municipalities assessed for from one to three years, as the case may require, and that such assessment be done in the months of May and June.

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The House of Industry erected by the county council at Whitby, in the county of Ontario, was formally opened last month. The building is of red brick, completely equipped, and has accommodation for seventy-five inmates.

Private Legislation for the Coming Session.

A considerable amount of private legislation is promised for the approaching session of the Provincial Legislature, which convenes on the 10th inst.

The Toronto and Mimico Electric Railway wants to change its name and extend its line to Hamilton. Work on an extension to Oakville has already been commuted.

The Toronto Suburban Railway will apply to extend its line from some point on its Davenport road branch, easterly to some point in East Toronto or Little York.

The North Lanark Railway Company wants to extend its line eastward to Ottawa, and westward to some point on the Madawaska River.

A company wants incorporation and power to build an electric railway from Stratford through Sebringville to Mitchell; from Stratford to St. Mary's, also to Embro on the C. P. R.

The city of St. Thomas asks for power to appoint a board of commissioners to manage the St. Thomas Street Railway, also authority to issue debentures to improve the system, and for its extension to Port Stanley.

The city of Ottawa requests authority to build, equip and operate a street railway through the city and the adjoining municipalities, and to acquire by purchase or expropriation existing lines, also permission to spend \$24,850 to purchase a site and furnish a free library.

Deseronto wants its debt, \$96,000, consolidated. This sum includes \$34,103 for a new public school building and the remodelling of the old building.

The county of Lanark asks confirmation of a by-law authorizing the issue of \$65,000 debentures for improvement of highways and purchase of toll roads.

The Huron, Bruce and Grey Electric Railway Company asks to have its original charter amended, so as to change the name to Ontario West Shore Electric Railway Company, and its route to be defined as follows: Dungannon to Lucknow, to Walkerton, also to Wingham to connect with the C. P. R., also to London, and from Parkhill to Sarnia.

The town of Lindsay will ask the Legislature that it be allowed to accept "the sum of \$16,000 from Andrew Carnegie, Esq., for the purpose of building a public library, also authorizing the dedication of market or Queen's square for a public library building.

Strathroy wants permission to purchase the waterworks and electric light plants, and to issue therefor \$50,000 in debentures.

Guelph asks the right to purchase the Guelph Light and Power Company for \$155,000.

Mr. F. H. Clergue, through his solicitor, asks power to build a railway from

Midland to Penetanguishene, and thence to Perkinsfield, on the Grand Trunk Railway. The purpose evidently is to make connection between Midland and Meaford, to which point his Manitoulin and North Shore Railway is projected, thereby affording a service between the smelter at Midland and the blast furnaces at Sault Ste. Marie.

Civic Improvement.

The Canadian League of Civic Improvement was organized on Feb. 13th at a meeting held in the Board of Trade building, Toronto. The object of this association is the formation, in all villages, towns and cities of the province of municipal improvement associations, similar to many organizations of the kind which have done such excellent work in England and the United States, and following the line adopted by a number of the horticultural and fruit growers' societies in Ontario.

The principle movers in this matter are Messrs J. D. Hayden and Major Snelgrove of Coburg and among the other speakers were Messrs G. R. Pattullo, Woodstock; Mayor Urquhart, Toronto; A. Alexander, Hamilton; R. T. Steele, Hamilton; A. W. Campbell, Toronto; and E. G. Rantzahn, Dayton, Ohio. The efforts of the association and local societies formed, will be directed toward street improvement, tree planting, encouraging the beautifying of private lawns and residences, the sanitary requirements of municipalities, overcoming the billboard nuisance, and all other matters in connection with a well conducted town or village. These organizations have rendered excellent service in forming public opinion in regard to municipal matters, and are able to greatly assist progressive councils in carrying out needed reforms.

We have received a copy of the Renfrew Mercury containing an historical review of the county council of Renfrew by County Clerk S. E. Mitchell, who has entered upon his 35th year of office. The development of the county which was formerly in union with the County of Lanark, has been very great. The equalized value being over three times as great in 1902 as in 1869. During the same period the population has increased eighty-eight per cent. The efficiency of county councils under the new regime is referred to; the work is done in the same time as formerly, a saving of \$592 for members, wages, etc. or forty-three per cent effected annually.

In connection with his official duties, Mr. Mitchell has prepared a complete index of the proceedings of the council since 1869, and has included much historical matter in reference thereto. This is a unique and original idea which might well be followed by other clerks. The history of a county is closely associated with its municipal development.