

It would be a good thing if the officials of municipalities which may have gone through the experience of a law suit, would give the benefit of their experience to others by sending us a concise report of the facts, and point out the shoals on which the ship-wreck occurred. Such information would be useful as beacons to others of hidden dangers.

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THE 10th October is the day set down for selecting jurors in the various local municipalities throughout the Province. There are four distinct sets of jurors to be selected. Grand and petit jurors for the superior courts, and the same for the inferior courts. Very properly some latitude is given the selectors in retaining or rejecting, and in classification. They should select the most intelligent and cleverest headed for sitting on cases of greatest magnitude that come before the highest courts. In no case should men wanting in natural or ordinary intelligence be retained for the position of a juror in any court, even if drawn in the ballot. The same remark applies to persons known to be deaf, or who are otherwise so infirm that they could not be serviceable as jurymen. The jury Act is clearly expressed, and should be followed closely. In some localities it will be found inconvenient to procure a J. P. before whom to make the declarations, and we see no good reason why this part of the requirement should not be simplified. Clerks in making out the voters' list are apt to omit the letter J after the names of members of council thinking these persons entirely exempt from jury service. They are only exempt as to service for the inferior courts and therefore should appear as jurymen on the voters' list and be balloted the same as others, but if drawn could only be put on the lists for the superior courts.

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WE are indebted to James Woodyatt, Esq., city clerk of Brantford, for a copy of the auditors' financial report of that city, and also details of the funds of the schools, library, hospital, police, water, and other public departments for the year 1890. The pamphlet also contained in tabulated form a statement showing the progress made from a financial and statistical standpoint of that city since 1877. The figures show marked progress both in wealth and population during the past fourteen years. The assessed value of property in 1877 being less than three and a half millions, whereas it has increased to very nearly six millions in 1890, while the population had grown during the same period from 10,631 to 14,470. Mr. Woodyatt has officiated as clerk of the municipality for over thirty-one years, and must have seen many changes during that time, and no doubt has had a considerable share in developing the latent possibilities of the embryo city on the banks of the Grand River. The writer has a very kindly recollection of a visit made by him to Brantford about twenty years ago in company of members of the Canadian Press Association, and of the royal welcome extended them by the city fathers of that day, including the present city clerk. The splendid meeting in the city hall, the charming

and picturesque drive to Bow Park Farm then owned by the late Hon. George Brown, and other pleasurable incidents of that visit have not been effaced from his memory, and he takes this opportunity of having a hearty though distant handshake with Mr. Woodyatt.

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IN looking over a leading newspaper lately we noticed an article headed "Law-making reduced to a science," which interested us. The views there given were those of an old and experienced ex-parliamentarian, Dr. Ferguson of St. Catharines. He thinks that much of the time of our legislators is taken up in considering the details of bills or laws both public and private. He says that a majority of the members are not qualified to draw up laws properly, so as to have the enactments plain and specific, and not to conflict with existing legislation, and that this is the cause of much discussion and delay in patching and amending their crudely prepared bills that might be avoided. He advocates the appointment of a court of three able lawyers as experts in such matters, whose business it would be to prepare the bills before presentation to Parliament, the author or introducer having given them the leading principles he wishes to be embodied in them, and which would be all that Parliament would require to discuss. We have often thought that there was room for reform in this matter, for some of our laws are so loose in expression and so complicated and mixed up with other laws that it is no wonder that ordinary readers find it hard to comply with their terms, or that the cleverest lawyers and ablest judges disagree in their interpretation of them. The scheme proposed by Dr. Ferguson, if workable, might help in some measure to bring order out of the present chaos.

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It is provided by the Municipal Act that in the case of convictions made under and by virtue of any municipal by-law, it shall not be necessary to set out the information, appearance or non-appearance of the defendant, or the evidence of the by-law under which the conviction is made, but all such convictions may be made in the following form:

Province of Ontario, } Be it remembered  
County of                    } that on the  
To wit:                        } day of                    A. D.  
                                  } 189 , at                    ,  
in the County of            , A. B., is convicted before me  
the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace  
in and for the said County, for that the said A. B., (stating  
the offence, and time and place, and where and when  
committed) contrary to a certain by-law of the Municipality  
of the                    of                    , in the County of  
passed on the            day of                    , A. D., 189 ,  
and entitled (reciting the title of the by-law), and I adjudge  
the said A. B., for his offence, to forfeit and pay the sum  
of                    , to be paid and applied according to law, and  
also to pay C. D., the complainant, the sum of                    , for  
his costs in this behalf. And if the said several sums are  
not paid forthwith (on or before the            day of  
as the case may be), I order that the same may be levied by  
distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the said A. B.,  
and in default of sufficient distress, I adjudge the said