

## CORRESPONDENCE.

This paper is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but so that the publishers will know from whom they are received.

## District Laws.

Editor Municipal World.

DEAR SIR,—Many persons do not seem to know, or if they know, do not think that there are township municipalities which are not under county authority; in districts, where the statutes and remarks in the "World," are not applicable; otherwise your paper would be much more valuable to those living in the districts.

In these districts municipal officers are usually quite inexperienced and without much schooling, and although Harrison's Manual and your "World" are valuable aids, still law terms are so unfamiliar to them, and statutes are so seemingly conflicting, and obscure, and so many of them do not apply to these municipalities that it is no wonder if many of the officers are at a loss sometimes to know how to proceed in their duties.

Could you not get up small books for the several officers showing in plain English what their duties are, and how they ought to proceed.

For instance a Collector's Guide, which does not merely quote the statutes, and refer to cases, but which would tell the collector, what powers he had in case parties did not pay taxes promptly, how much he was allowed to charge in case he had to call upon a party a second time, if the party then paid, or if the taxes were paid or offered at any stage of proceedings or distraint.

What powers he had should he find buildings containing goods and chattles locked up.

What documents he would require to distrain for taxes, and what he should do with each of these documents.

In short explain everything that would be likely to occur while a collector was engaged collecting.

Other officers duties might be explained in a similar manner, and I think that such books would be very useful, and highly appreciated by persons requiring them.

I wouldn't expect to have all the duties and powers of the council explained in this way, nor those of the clerk, whose duties are so multifarious, but the duties of the collectors, assessors, pathmasters, poundkeepers, fenceviewers, and some of the duties of others in connection with those mentioned.

Yours truly,

R. R. COUTTS.

[We would be very much pleased to comply with our correspondents request if it was either practicable or advisable to do so. Owing to the numerous changes made in the laws, pamphlets of the kind would be useless in a very short time.

We have recently published Assessors' and Collectors' guides. The demand for special publications referring to the districts is so small that a publisher would find difficulty in securing sales sufficient to cover cost of printing.

Through our question-drawer we enable all readers to procure special information on different points as they arise in connection with their work, and a reference to the present issue will show that they are not backward in availing themselves of this privilege.—ED.]

## Retrospective.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD.

DEAR SIR,—It is an old proverb better late than never; and where a debt is owing it must be very applicable and pleasing. Applicable in regard of the party owing the debt, and pleasing to the party receiving their due. Now it is late in the year returning thanks for new years favors; but being a novice in the business of committing my thoughts to writing, I thought I would wait and see the efforts of some more capable friend than myself. I am sorry to say I have seen none such yet; consequently I have to use my own poor endeavors.

Now, dear sir, I must ask you to listen to the history of a friend of ours (Municipal Clerks), and after I get warmed with my subject, I may be able to give you his name, if I get over my bashfulness. In January, 1891, an intelligent, youthful messenger applied to township clerks and others for employment, in order to aid them in the discharge of their duties, promising to use all endeavors to assist them, so as to have their work appreciated, a thing they stood very much in need of.

The bargain was closed, and well did this fellow servant keep his word. His residence was close to the northern backwoods, and many the poor municipal clerk's eye brightened with pleasure at his friend's visit, to cheer and advise him. But all pleasure is mixed with pain, and this case was no exception. Dame Rumor stated, and after events proved it was too true, our friend was leaving us, and going to a city far away. While still promising never to forget us, many thought, Alas! our friend will forget his old backwoods acquaintance, he will get too grand to recognize the old bond. But it was a mistaken idea, our friend prospered and grew strong in the city, and each new year brings compliments, good wishes and presents to his backwoods friends.

Need I tell you who this friend is? If I must; it is yourself. That your days may be prosperous, and long in the land is the wish of your friend.

A Municipal Clerk.

Boston claims to have the longest paved street in the world—Washington street, which is seventeen and a half miles in length.

## County Rates—Time for Payment.

The question of the time of payment of county rates is referred to in an interesting opinion given by the county solicitor of Wellington to the county council at their January session, as follows:

"My opinion is asked as to the time county rates should be paid to the county treasurer by the local municipalities. In answer to this question, I have to say that, under section 243 of the Consolidated Assessment Act, it is the duty of the treasurer of every township, town or village, within fourteen days after the time appointed for the final settlement of the collector's roll, to pay over to the treasurer of the county all moneys which were assessed and by law required to be levied collected in the municipality for county purposes. In section 132 of the same act, in towns, villages and townships every collector is required to return his roll to the treasurer on or before the 14th day of December in each year, or on such day in the next year, not later than the 1st day of February, as the council of the municipality may appoint. I am of opinion, therefore, that it is the duty of the local treasurer within fourteen days of the 14th of December, or where the council of the local municipality appoints a later day, that is, a day not later than the 1st day of February in the following year, then within fourteen days from such last mentioned day, to pay over to the county treasurer all county rates; and that is so whether such rates shall have been paid by the local collector to the local treasurer or not. It is open to question whether, under section 241 of the Assessment Act, all moneys actually collected for county purposes may not be payable by the township, town or village treasurer to the county treasurer whenever the same are received from the local collector; that is, where, as a matter of fact, the local collector pays the day appointed for the final settlement of the collector's roll, it is not the duty of the local treasurer to pay so much of the county rates as he shall have so received to the county treasurer within a reasonable time of his receipt thereof. I incline to think that it is the duty of the local treasurer so to pay over moneys to the county treasurer, but this question is not free from doubt."—*Mercury*.

The new act respecting births, deaths and marriages, requires clerks to keep a register and notify the department regularly, on or before the fifth of each month, of all deaths from contagious diseases occurring within the municipality during the preceding month. A most important feature of the act is, that while additional duties have been imposed on the clerks, the fee has been increased to twenty cents for each complete registration. We will publish next month a synopsis of the new act, with explanations by Inspector Hamilton of the Registrar General's department.