

### Selecting Jurors.

The mayor, reeve, the city, town, village or township clerk, and the assessor or assessors, if there be more than one, of the respective towns, villages or townships, in Ontario are *ex-officio* the selectors of jurors for every township and village, and for each ward of every such city or town. They are required to assemble annually on the 10th day of October, at the place where the meetings of the council of the municipality are usually held, or at such other place within the municipality, as may, for that purpose, be appointed by the head of such municipal corporation.

Before entering upon the performance of their duties the selectors are required to make and subscribe before a justice of the peace an oath or affirmation, as follows: I, A. B., do swear (or affirm as the case may be), that I will truly, faithfully and impartially, without fear, favor or affection, and to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duty of a selector of jurors, and will select from the proper lists the requisite number of the most fit and proper persons to serve as jurors for the year of our Lord 19 . So help me God.

#### SELECTION.

First, the selectors are required to write down on one or more sheets of paper twice as many names of persons appearing by the voters' list or assessment roll to be possessed of the requisite property qualifications or otherwise duly qualified to serve on juries, as have been required by the county selectors to be selected and returned from the township, village or wards of the municipality. The clerk is required to produce for the information of the selectors, the proper voters' list and assessment roll. In selecting the names for the list mentioned, the selectors are required to proceed from letter to letter in alphabetical order, and write down the names consecutively of all those persons qualified to serve on juries, and not exempt by law, and at each subsequent annual meeting the selectors shall begin at the letter next to that at which they left off the proceeding year, and so on until they have gone through all the letters of the alphabet, when they again begin with the letter A. When the selectors have obtained the names of a sufficient number of duly qualified persons, and before they have exhausted the entire number of those qualified in any one letter, they are required at the next annual selection to commence at the beginning of such letter, but shall not select from the names any persons that were written down and selected from, and returned the preceding year. The selectors shall select from the list at least two-thirds of the persons whose names they have so written down, who, in their opinion, are best qualified to serve as jurors and shall place a number opposite each name of the said two-thirds so selected, and shall then

prepare a set of ballots of uniform and convenient size, such ballots shall be numbered to correspond with the numbers opposite the names of the two-third selected, and the selectors shall then proceed to ballot for jurors until the number required from every such municipality by the county selectors has been selected.

#### BALLOTING.

Place all the ballots in a box, which shall be then shaken so as to mix them, and the selectors or one of them shall then openly draw from the said box indiscriminately one of the ballots, and declare the number of such ballot, whereupon the clerk or one of the selectors present shall immediately declare the name of the person opposite whose name the corresponding number is on the list, and the name and addition of the person whose name is so selected shall be written down on a piece of paper provided for that purpose, and the selectors are required to continue until the necessary number has been completed. After having made such selections by ballot, the selectors shall distribute the names of the persons so balloted into four divisions, the first to consist of persons to serve as grand jurors in the high court, the second, of persons to serve as grand jurors in the inferior courts, the third, of persons to serve as petit jurors in high court, and the fourth of persons to serve as petit jurors in the inferior courts, and shall make such distributions according to the best of their judgment.

#### REPORT.

The selectors are then required to make a duplicate report, under their hands and seal, of the selection, ballot and distribution, which report is required to be in the form of schedule A, of the Jurors Act. One of the reports shall, on or before the 25th day of October, be deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county in which the municipality lies, and the other duplicate with the clerk of the municipality. The clerk of the municipality is required to keep a book and enter the dates of the meeting of such selectors of the municipality, the persons present thereat, and the letters of the alphabet from which the selections of names of persons are from year to year made.

#### FEEES OF SELECTORS.

For making the selection and distribution of jurors, the selectors are entitled to such sum of money as is authorized by the council of the municipality.

At the recent meeting of the Oxford Municipal Clerks' Association, the cow tag by-law came up for discussion, and, considering that the officials present came from all parts of the county, their views should reflect pretty closely those of the farmers in their several parts of the county. Most of those at the meeting expressed themselves as being thoroughly in favor of cow tag by-laws, as it was a great benefit to farmers, especially during the dry months, when pasture is scarce, and does no particular harm to anyone.

### Municipal Politics and the Tax-Payer.

With the approach of the date for the holding of the municipal elections there should ensue in the community general discussion of the standing of the municipality; its needs; and the class of men best fitted to manage its affairs in the council chamber. Around these points the attention of the voter should be concentrated if he desires to exercise his right as a taxpayer intelligently. What he does will very largely, if not altogether, influence the trend of domestic legislation. It is, therefore, desirable that the man who pays the taxes should bear the citizen's burden in a commendable manner. That he can only do by taking a deep personal interest in civic questions and judge carefully of the merits of the several candidates.

It is pertinent to ask a few questions here.

Can the taxpayer do justice to himself while upholding men of non progressive ideas?

Can the property owner afford to league himself with the forces of decay?

Can the best results be obtained from the use of poor material?

Are old-time methods, popular in the days when it was a case of living from hand-to-mouth, to be allowed to prevail when experience, better teaching and financial considerations bid us build for the future?

Does the intelligent taxpayer think that men at the council board will do good work if they feel that they have a sleepy, indifferent community to serve?

Is it not apparent that a live municipality to be such, must be supported by a live public spirit speaking through civic representatives who are anything but men of narrow ideas?

Does any sensible citizen imagine that any locality can do justice to itself in the hands of councillors who fail to take in the true situation of affairs, who believe in lagging while other communities are deep in enterprises and movements looking to expansion?

These are a few questions the voter should ask himself at the present time, giving to each the consideration that it deserves.

Our own view is that municipal policy should be a policy of progress, the conquest of difficulties and the establishment of the community on such a basis as will render it pre-eminently a desirable place of residence and, if a town an unsurpassed centre for the manufacturer seeking a satisfactory location.

Every municipality fights a continuous and losing fight with the corporations it creates to discharge its functions. Yet, in spite of that experience, the average alderman thinks he can draft or decide the merits of an agreement which will tie the next franchise-seekers hand and foot. There is little hope for those incapable of learning by repeated failures.