

The Municipal World

Published Monthly in the Interests of Every Department of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario

A. W. CAMPBELL, C. E. K. W. MCKAY, EDITOR
 J. M. GLENN, K. C., LL.B. HORACE F. JELL
 Associate Editors.

TERMS.—\$1.00 per annum. Single copy, 10c.; Six copies, \$5.00, payable in advance.

EXPIRATION OF SUBSCRIPTION.—This paper will be discontinued at the expiration of term paid for, of which subscribers will receive notice.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers who may change their address, should give prompt notice of same, and in doing so, give both old and new address.

COMMUNICATIONS.—Contributions of interest to Municipal Officers are cordially invited.

HOW TO REMIT.—Cash should be sent by registered letter. Draft, express or money orders may be sent at our risk.

OFFICES—334 Talbot Street, St. Thomas. Phone 189.
 ADDRESS all communications to THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, LIMITED, Box 1321, St. Thomas, Ont.

ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, MAY 1, 1907.

PRIVATE BILLS REFERRED TO MUNICIPAL BOARD.

The usefulness of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board is being gradually extended. On the 27th of March the Rules of the Legislative Assembly were amended by adding the following as Rule 61 (a) :

Every Private Bill, in so far as it provides for the consolidation of a floating debt or for the consolidation or renewal of debentures (other than local improvement debentures) of a municipal corporation, when the Bill has been read a first time, shall without special reference stand referred to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for their report : and a copy of such Bill and of the petition on which the same is founded shall be forthwith transmitted by the Clerk of the House to the Board in order that the Board may, after an enquiry into the allegations set out in the Bill, and into any other matters which the Board may deem necessary in connection therewith, report to the House whether or not it is reasonable that such Bill or the part thereof relating to the matters aforesaid, should be passed, and what alterations, if any, should be made in the same, and the Board shall make such enquiry accordingly and shall sign the same ; and the said Report, Bill and Petition shall be transmitted to the Clerk and the Report shall be read by the Clerk at the Table and shall be entered on the Journals of the House, and the Bill together with the Report shall stand referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

And it shall be the duty of the Law Clerk to report to the Clerk of the House as to whether any such Private Bill does so provide as aforesaid.

This is an important addition to the duties of the Board. Most municipalities will, no doubt, consult the Board in the preparation of their Bills in future, and thus avoid a delay that would be occasioned by an adverse report to the Legislature.

The Legislature has expressed itself emphatically in favor of county road systems by refusing aid to those counties that had obtained Special Acts. This will do much to improve county council administration by requiring the members to consider the equalizing effect of a county road system on the road and bridge expenditures of all the local municipalities, rather than the one they represent.

Mr. JUSTICE ANGLIN has quashed the local option by-law of Asphodel township. The vote for the by-law was 219, and against it 109—leaving a clear majority of 23 over three fifths of the vote. But one of the polling places had been changed without sufficient notice, and the election was held three or four days later than statutory requirement.

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

The Bureau of Industries report on the municipal statistics of the Province for 1905 has been received. It is the first official statement showing the effect of the Act of 1904 on the assessed values of the Province. In 1904, real property was valued at \$859,000,000, and in 1905 \$978,000,000, an increase of \$119,000,000, or 13.8 per cent. In 1904 personal property was valued at \$37,000,000. In 1905 the business assessment was \$46,000,000, an increase of \$9,000,000, or 24 per cent. Taxable income was increased by 3½ millions, or 38.8 per cent.

Municipalities	Population	ASSESSED VALUES			TAXES IMPOSED FOR ALL PURPOSES.		
		Real Property	Business Assessment	Taxable Income	Total	Per Head	Mills on \$
1905							
Township.....	1,061,018	\$56,268,453	\$4,620,912	\$989,195	\$57,187,860	5 64	10.5
Towns and villages.....	482,254	\$149,916,346	\$15,650,684	\$3,861,967	\$169,429,197	7 83	22.3
Cities.....	557,988	\$262,064,326	\$25,811,447	\$7,726,600	\$295,602,373	12 24	23.1
Total.....	2,101,260	\$978,249,325	\$46,083,043	\$12,577,762	\$1,036,910,130	7 90	16.0
1904							
Townships.....	1,068,407	\$477,691,722	\$2,384,695	\$262,315	\$480,338,732	5 27	11.7
Towns and villages.....	485,727	\$135,581,967	\$11,187,390	\$1,678,239	\$148,447,596	7 33	24.0
Cities.....	522,836	\$246,415,960	\$23,799,514	\$7,103,857	\$277,319,331	12 17	23.0
Total.....	2,076,970	\$859,689,649	\$37,371,599	\$9,044,411	\$906,105,659	7 49	17.2
1896							
Townships.....	1,112,900	\$444,056,842	\$2,792,097	\$268,444	\$447,117,383	3 86	9.6
Towns and villages.....	438,452	\$111,050,720	\$8,338,270	\$1,886,057	\$121,275,047	5 84	21.1
Cities.....	420,934	\$221,941,541	\$16,963,651	\$7,620,011	\$246,525,203	12 51	21.4
Total.....	1,972,286	\$777,049,103	\$28,094,018	\$9,774,512	\$814,917,633	6 15	14.9

During the past ten years the rate of township taxation has increased from \$3.86 per head in 1896 to \$5.64 in 1905. In towns and villages the increase has been larger, and in cities a slight decrease is shown, owing no doubt to the large increase in population, which has decreased in the rural districts.

A meeting of the Executive of the Ontario Rural Municipal Association was held in Guelph township council rooms on the 13th of April last. There were present: Messrs. H. WRIGHT, president, in the chair; JAMES MAHON, PRITCHARD and JAMES LAIDLAW, Secretary. It is proposed to hold another meeting of the association in Guelph during the last week of the present month, to be addressed by Mr. A. W. CAMPBELL, Deputy Minister of Public Works.