

mentioned amount to \$175. Municipal administration in cities as an expansion of town administration.

Boards of Health. One of the most important local authorities is the local Board of Health, first established by The Public Health Act of 1884. A Board of Health will be found now in every municipality. In townships, villages and towns under 4,000 population, it is composed of the reeve, clerk and three ratepayers, who are appointed for three years and retire in rotation. In towns of 4,000 inhabitants, the board consists of the mayor and six ratepayers, appointed for three years, two of whom retire annually. Provision is made for the formation of a health district by a union of municipalities and for the appointment of county or district medical health officers. As yet no advantage has been taken of this. If a municipal council neglects or refuses to nominate a Board of Health, the Provincial Board may make the appointments. Councils are also required to select a medical health officer and a sanitary inspector to act as officers of the Board of Health. No provision is made for payment of any other than these two officials. The medical health officer is the more important. He possesses the same authority as a member of the board or as the sanitary inspector, and is required to perform all duties imposed upon him by regulation of the Provincial or local Board.

When the abatement of a nuisance demands special precautions, it is the duty of the local Board of Health to notify the Provincial Board to investigate and report. Municipal councils may vote such sums as are deemed necessary by local Boards of Health for carrying on this work. All municipal treasurers are required in addition to pay the amount of any order given by the members of a local Board of Health or any two of them for services performed under their direction by virtue of this Act. This provision prevents interference on the part of councils with the expenditures of the board. If any serious epidemic breaks out in a municipality the local board is furnished with expert assistance and advice. All by-laws of municipal councils respecting systems of sewerage or water supply have to be submitted to the Provincial Board for their approval before taking effect. Every local board reports annually to the Provincial Board.

Justices of the Peace. The head of every council and all county councillors are *ex-officio* justices of the peace, for their county or union of counties. Justices have jurisdiction in cases arising under by-laws in municipalities in which there is no police magistrate.

Two actions recently tried at Chatham are instructive as indicative of the extent of the powers of local Boards of Health in quarantining persons afflicted with contagious disease in the municipality for which they have been appointed. These actions were instituted against the defendants as members of the local Board of Health for the Town of Ridgetown, by parties who had been placed under quarantine, for damages for alleged injuries to their persons and businesses by reason of proceedings taken by defendants to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Mr. Chief Justice Falconbridge dismissed both actions, and held that the defendants were bound to use and did use all possible care in preventing the spread of infection; that in so doing they were not influenced by malice or improper motives, but acted to the best of their judgment in the interest of the public safety, and without any intention of injuring the plaintiffs or either of them. He also stated in the course of his judgment that if the plaintiffs had any reasonable causes of complaint these arose from error of judgment on the part of defendants or some of them, and that defendants, acting in good faith and with reasonable precaution, ought not to be held liable for error in judgment.

SOFTENING WATER.

The process of softening water was invented and patented about the year 1844 by Thomas Clarke, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Aberdeen. The process is the only successful one now used and the patent has long since expired. There are patents in force upon certain details and auxiliary appliances, but not upon any essential part of the process. The process is remarkable, in that lime is added to the water to take out the lime already in solution. Lime is held in solution in water by carbonic acid. One part of lime, combined with two parts of carbonic acid, is soluble in water, while combined with only one part it is insoluble or nearly so. Lime water, which is lime without any carbonic acid, is added to the water and takes away the extra carbonic acid from the lime in solution, and the lime added and that originally present in the water are precipitated together. This precipitate is easily removed by sedimentation and filtration. The magnesia usually present, which contributes to the hardness, acts in some measure as the lime, and is removed in the same way, but in less degree. This treatment does not remove the lime or magnesia present as sulphates or chlorides, and when these substances are present a solution of soda-ash must be added to the water in advance of the lime treatment to change them into carbonates, which are then removed in the final precipitation.

As evidence of the slight circumstances which may work the disqualification of a municipal councillor the case of *Rex ex rel, Macnamara v. Hufferman* is worthy of attention. This was an appeal by defendant as a member of the council for the Town of Walkerton. The question involved in the appeal was whether defendant was disqualified by reason of an unsatisfied judgment which the town corporation had obtained against him for taxed costs in an action brought by him against the corporation. The judgment was for \$207.72, and under it an execution was issued on 24th June, 1903, which was unsatisfied. By section 80 of The Municipal Act, no person having an interest in any contract with or on behalf of the corporation shall be qualified to be a member of the council. Held, that "contract" must be construed in its widest sense, so as to include contracts of record as well as simple contracts and contracts under seal. The unsatisfied judgment constituted a claim against defendant which might be enforced either by an execution or by another action. *Kerr v. Smith*, 24 O.R. 475; *Aldrich v. Aldrich*, ib. 124; *Leake on Contracts*, 4th ed., p. 104, and *Anson on Contracts*, 10th ed., p. 62, referred to. The object of the Legislature in passing section 80 was to prevent anyone being elected to a municipal council whose personal interests might clash with those of the municipality; and if defendant were in the council he might use his position there to prevent the enforcement of the judgment against him, to the detriment of the municipality. The appeal was dismissed with costs.

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Owing to his removal from the locality, Mr. Wm. H. Walker has resigned the office of clerk and treasurer of the township of McIrvine, and Rev. Chas. Segsworth has been appointed to succeed him.

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Mr. E. R. Hellemis died last month after a brief illness from heart disease. He had been clerk of the town of Welland for thirty-four years, and police magistrate for twenty-three years.