

QUESTION DRAWER.

SUBSCRIBERS only are entitled to opinions through the paper on all questions submitted if they pertain to municipal matters. Write each question on a separate paper on one side only. When submitting questions state as briefly as possible all the facts, as many received do not contain sufficient information to enable us to give a satisfactory answer.—E.D.

A TOWNSHIP CLERK.—In the current number of the WORLD, page 109, you give it as your opinion that an elector can second as many nominations at a municipal nomination meeting as he sees fit. If your opinion is correct, any two electors whom we will call A and B, who, when the chairman calls for nominations, can take the floor and nominate as many candidates as they see fit, say 7, 8, 100, 200, or more and occupy the whole hour allotted for receiving nominations. I hold that A and B can nominate a candidate for reeve, also a candidate for one or more deputy-reeves, and for the number of councillors required, in all not more than five in number, and when they have done so they have exhausted their privilege for the time. At the election they can vote only for the five members of council and no more, if the contest is for the full number. Therefore, I cannot see how they have any right to nominate more candidates than they can vote for. I would like to hear some further explanation of your theory. I might add that I have had parties try the GAME OF EXTRAS with me at nomination meetings but I have refused them for the reasons given above.

We are still of the same opinion as expressed on the page of THE WORLD referred to by our correspondent. The difficulty referred to by him could easily be got over by taking the nominations from parties proposing, to nominate in the order of their making known or evincing an intention to do so.

G. G. A.—The mayor called a special meeting of the town council for general business on June 27th, 1894. The notices therefore were in writing and served on the members of the council by the constable. Shortly before the hour of meeting through some incident the meeting was formally adjourned or dispensed with, when it was understood among those present, at the mayor's request that the council should meet on the following evening, June 28th, after transacting business, adjourned to Wednesday July 4th. All the members were not present on the 27th. June and 28th. June when the adjournments were made. July 2nd. was the night of regular meeting, under the rules of the council, but it being a holiday the meeting was not held on that evening, but was adjourned from June the 28th. to July 4th. as above stated.

Doubts have arisen as to the legality of the meetings held on June 28th. and July 4th. as no formal written notice thereof was served on the members.

1st. Do you consider the meetings of June 28th. and July 4th. are legal?

2nd. Under section 236 of the con. Municipal Act 1892 is it necessary that notices of special meetings should be in writing, instead of verbal notice?

1. Assuming that the special meeting for June 27th was legally called, and the necessary notice of same given to all members of council entitled to receive the same, we see no reason why an adjournment could not be taken to the 28th June, or 4th July, and such acts as might be performed by the council at such adjournment be held legal. In any event in the absence of formal objection to such acts or proceedings they would stand.

2. Although the Municipal Act does not in terms require the notices referred to, to

be in writing, it would be better that they should be issued so that there could be no question as to the exact purpose for which the special meeting is called.

J. R. M.—A rate payer of the municipality and candidate for councillor at last annual election but not elected, received notice from the clerk on the 23rd, of April last to make his declaration of office for overseer of highways, but failed to do so before next meeting of council on the 19th. just for division of statute labor, a certain beat having been left in his charge. Then the clerk gives one of the councillors a copy of his declaration to be subscribed before him at his residence. When handed to him he destroyed it wilfully. Please give opinion how council should act in the matter.

The council had better appoint another person to act as pathmaster in the road-division mentioned. A pathmaster is not liable to fine or punishment for refusal to accept the office, unless a by-law has been passed in accordance with sub-section 17, of section 479, of the Municipal Act.

A Secret Service Fund.

"Review."

The following resolution was recently introduced into the Peterborough council: "That a sum not exceeding one-third of all fines imposed under the liquor license act or under any by-laws of this council passed in pursuance thereof be set aside as a fund to be used for the better enforcement of the said act and by-laws, to be administered and paid out from time to time as may be required on the recommendation of the police magistrate without necessarily disclosing the names of persons to whom the same is to be paid, no portion of such moneys to be paid to any employees of either the government or this corporation and that the finance committee be authorized to issue cheques as may be required for this purpose."

This is a matter entirely new and we doubt very much if the council is able to sustain its position if legal exception is taken to the payment of moneys for the purposes above mentioned in resolution.

This multiplication of high schools, apart from its injurious effects upon our public schools, has not been without bad results. Many are attracted to the high schools whose usefulness would be enhanced by a good public school training, but with the craze for the so-called genteel occupations which seems everywhere prevalent, they take a course in the high school and leave it to still further swell the ranks of professions already overcrowded. The larger proportion, however, take a short course, receive a modicum of preparation, and at once or much too soon blossom out as teachers. It may not be fair to charge this solely to the high schools, but it will not be denied that our copious system of high schools offers facilities for perpetuating the most flagrant defect of our public schools, viz.:—the transitory character of the teacher's calling.—Extract from an address by A. McMillan, chairman P. S. dept. Ontario Educational Association.

An act passed by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at its last session provides one of the simplest, cheapest and speediest methods that has yet been devised for the settlement of controversies by arbitration. The board of trade in any city of 30,000 inhabitants may elect 25 members of a board of arbitration to be chosen from 30 or more names selected by the council of the board of trade. Membership in the board of trade is not a necessary qualification for the board of arbitration. Persons submitting a case may select one, two or three members of the board of arbitration to hear and decide the case. Sittings may be entirely private unless otherwise agreed, and unless the time be enlarged by agreement, all awards shall be made within 21 days after the submission has been signed. Arbitrators can compel attendance of witnesses on oath and have other powers similar to those in other arbitrations. There is also provision for the submission and award being made a rule of court.

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Section 109, of the Public Schools Act, of 1891, as amended by the act of 1892, does not refer to union school sections which include part of a township, and a village or town, provides that the municipal council of every township shall levy and collect by assessment on the taxable property of the public school supporters of the whole township, the sum of \$100 at least, for every public school therein, in which a public school has been kept open for a whole year. When a public school has been kept open for six months or over, a proportionate amount of the said sum of \$100 shall be levied and collected on the taxable property of the whole township, and an additional sum of \$50 shall be levied and collected in a similar manner for every assistant teacher engaged for the whole year, and a proportionate amount for such assistant teacher if engaged for six months or over.

In the case of union schools they shall levy and collect a portion of said sum as fixed by the equalization provided for under section 95 of the said Act.

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It is difficult to suggest anything that will materially assist clerks in making entries in collectors rolls. Our practice is to use rate tables. Clerks who have not heretofore adopted this plan will find that the rates can be entered more correctly and in a shorter time than by any other method. It is the custom in many municipalities to enter in the roll, but one amount for all the different rates. Section 119 of assessment act requires all rates to be entered separately, so that ratepayers will know under what authority the taxes to be paid are levied, it is also sometimes very useful in giving information.