

# The Municipal World.

Published monthly in the interests of every department of our Municipal System—the best in the world.

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Contributions of value to the persons in whose interests this journal is published, are cordially invited. Subscribers are also requested to forward items of interest from their respective localities.

Address all communications to

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ST. THOMAS, MAY 1, 1893.

It is amusing to learn the peculiar ideas held by many municipal councillors and officers who are holding a public office for the first time, as to their relation to the public generally and to the municipal corporation in which they have been appointed or elected to serve. A municipal councillor is nearly always elected or appointed to his position or office on account of his fitness for the same, and afterwards he is supposed to look after the duties of his office as he may think best in the interests of the municipality, and not as individual ratepayers may suggest. Those who endeavor to please all of their constituents, or act on advice given off-hand by irresponsible persons, who, very often, do not know what they are talking about, will find it very difficult to justify their position to the satisfaction of electors on nomination day. There are those in every municipality who believe they know more than any of the council, who are not fit to occupy position of trust or responsibility, and who take great pleasure in misleading new and inexperienced officers. Councillors will find it a good rule to follow, to do what they think is right and in accordance with the meaning and intent of our Municipal Acts. They will then have no difficulty in placing any matter that may be in question clearly before their supporters when called upon, and also the satisfaction of knowing that their constituents did not expect more of them when elected.

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The county of Essex and city of Windsor have had an arbitration to ascertain that the city should pay the county \$2,688.37 per year for expenses in connection with the administration of justice, etc., and besides, that the county is hereafter exempted from payment for crown witnesses, lunacy cases and coroners' inquests arising in Windsor. The arbitrators costs were \$2,433.62, one half to be paid by each. Solicitors were engaged on behalf of both the municipalities and when their costs are added to amount paid the arbitrators it would appear that proceedings of this kind are sometimes expensive. The city is not satisfied and will appeal against the award.

If one-man-one-vote is good liberal doctrine, and there is no question on that point, the Ontario government should do away with the present law, which gives a freeholder a vote on money by-laws in every ward in which he may happen to hold property. The absurdity of the ward system has been frequently pointed out, but nowhere is it more absurd than in the matter in question. Why, one man owning \$10,000 worth of property distributed over five wards, should have five votes, and another man having \$10,000 worth of property centered in one ward, should have but one vote, is one of the things for which no explanation is ever attempted. The wrong has existed many years, but that fact affords us good reason for its further perpetuation.—*Expositor.*

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A member of a council in moving a resolution should put it in writing, and the municipality should provide suitable blank forms of resolutions for the use of members of the council.

### Debenture Statement.

Form of debenture statement, showing debentures and coupons required to be issued to discharge \$1,000 in five equal annual payments at five per cent.:

		COUPONS.						
		1 1894	2 1895	3 1896	4 1897	5 1898		
DEBENTURES.	YEAR.	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	Total...	
	NO.	1	2	3	4	5		
	PRINCIPAL.	\$ 180	190	199	209	219	\$1,000	00
		98	02	52	50	98		
		9 05	9 50	9 98	10 47	11 00	50	00
			9 50	9 98	10 47	11 00	40	95
				9 98	10 47	11 00	31	45
					10 47	11 00	21	47
						11 00	11	00
								00

When interest is payable half-yearly, two columns would be required for coupons, payable each year, instead as above.

This will be found to be a very convenient form of statement to keep on record, or to submit with debentures when offering them for sale.

### Health Officers

The indications are that this current year there will be great danger of the introduction of cholera into this country. Hundreds of places in Europe were affected with cholera last year, and in many of them all through the cold weather of a severe winter, cases have been cropping out. What else, then, can we expect than that the warm season will again bring into life and activity the infection of this Asiatic scourge. If it does not gain a foothold in this country it will be a noteworthy result of public health work. If it does come, no man knows where it will strike first or subsequently. The town that receives it unprepared will be likely to be a sorry town; moreover, it would be a disgrace to the town and to the province.

To be prepared we must have an efficient local board of health in every municipality, one that does not wait to be galvanized into life by an epidemic shock. The board must be properly organized, must know its powers and duties, must bring its village or city into as cleanly a condition as possible, and finally must have a clear general idea what to do and how to do it promptly, if an outbreak of cholera or other infectious disease occurs. The means for learning all this are supplied by the bulletins of the provincial board.

Every local board should be prompt in holding its meetings for the purpose of arranging the plan for the sanitary improvement of its town during the current year.

Important matters that every board should determine how best they can effect, are:

The education of the people in public health matters. This is largely done through the press and provincial boards by the publication of health articles and circulars, and is necessary for the welfare of the people, and indirectly to make the work of the board less difficult and more efficient.

The securing of private and public water supplies that are free from pollution with pollution with human excreta. The great danger to wells comes from the privy or sink spout that discharges within the drainage area of the wells. If a public supply is unsafe it is because human excreta reaches it through sewers or otherwise.

The disposal of excreta in such ways as to avoid the pollution of water supplies, and the contamination of the air about dwelling houses and other inhabited places. The privies and water closets of factories, railway stations, hotels, schools, and tenement houses, should be inspected and got into good condition.

We would specially direct the attention of subscribers to the fact that all questions and communications must be in our hands not later than the 20th of the month to insure insertion in the next issue.