

The Municipal World

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In the Interests of every department of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario.

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THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

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ST. THOMAS, SEPTEMBER 1, 1903.

Mr. G. H. Larocque has been appointed clerk of the village of Casselman to succeed Mr. J. A. Riddell.

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Mr. N. H. Young has been appointed clerk of the village of Blyth to succeed Mr. T. W. Scott, resigned.

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Mr. Wm. McIntyre, of Grand Valley, has been appointed clerk of the township of East Luther, in the place of Mr. J. D. Watson, who has resigned with the intention of removing to Western Canada.

School Exemption Regulations.

Under the provisions of section 4a added to the Assessment Act by sub-section 1 of section 1 of the Assessment Amendment Act, 1903, special conditions for the exemption of private schools and colleges were drawn up by an order-in-council passed on the 21st August last. The regulations are as follows:

A copy of the calendar or prospectus of the institution must be furnished to the Education Department. The approximate value of the property for which exemption is claimed shall be duly certified to. Exemptions cannot be claimed for any property not in bona fide use for school purposes. Incorporated institutions giving instructions to pupils in training solely for philanthropic and benevolent work without expectation of gain to the members of the corporation shall be exempt. The attendance of pupils of school age pursuing the obligatory subjects prescribed for public, separate or high schools must not be less than 25. A certificate as to sanitary conditions of the schools must be furnished by a physician.

Business corporations under the designation of schools or colleges formed for the primary purpose of gain, whose students are mainly adults taking special

limited courses only, are liable for assessment. A statement of the annual receipts and expenditures and such other information as the Minister of Education may require shall be furnished to the Department of Education on or before February 1 in each year. These regulations are provisional, and are valid only for the present year.

Union School Section Arbitrators.

From a newspaper report of the meeting of the council of an eastern township, we learn that it appointed its clerk as an arbitrator to participate in the formation of a union school section, to be composed of part of the township of which he is clerk, and the adjoining municipality, under section 46 of the Public Schools Act, 1901. Though the Act does not, in express terms, prohibit a council from appointing its clerk to act as an arbitrator under section 46 of the Act, we consider it unwise on the part of such council, to appoint this official to fill the office in question, as there is a strong possibility of its being an invitation to litigation. It is always best in a case of this kind, to fill the office by the appointment of some competent person, who has no interest directly or indirectly in the subject matter of the arbitration.

Time for Effecting Change in Composition of County Councils.

In a recent issue of a contemporary in an editorial comment on the section (68a) added to the Municipal Act, by section 14 of the Municipal Amendment Act, 1903, providing for a change in the existing composition of county councils, we find the following:

"If the municipal electors of the county desire to take advantage of this change in the composition of the county council in time to take effect *next January*, preliminary steps should be taken at an early day; and it is likewise up to the local town, village and township councils to pass the necessary resolutions and file the same with the county clerk, as provided by the above amendments."

In this same connection the council of a western township has passed the following resolution.

"That the county council of E. be composed, in 1905, of the Reeves of townships and villages and the mayors of towns not separated from the county, in accordance with section 68a of the Municipal Act, 1903, instead of representatives of the county council divisions, constituted under County Councils Act, chapter 223."

The above extract is misleading, and the resolution quoted was passed prematurely. Sub-section 1 of section 68a provides that if the council of any local municipality within a county, so desires, it may, at a special meeting called for the purpose pass the resolution therein mentioned "and may cause a copy of such resolution, duly certified by the clerk and

head of the council, under the corporate seal, to be deposited with the clerk of the county, on or before the first day of October, IN ANY YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING A YEAR IN WHICH COUNTY COUNCILLORS ARE TO BE ELECTED UNDER THIS ACT." There can be no general election of county councillors under the Act, until January, 1905. The year immediately preceding it is 1904. Therefore, the change provided for by section 68a cannot come into effect until the year, 1905, and the resolution required to bring it about, should not be passed by local municipal councils until the year 1904, and should be filed with the proper county clerk, on or before the 1st day of October in the year last mentioned.

Municipal Waterworks.

Municipal ownership of waterworks is becoming general in the United States. There are now but nine cities in the Union with over 100,000 of population whose waterworks are still under private ownership. These nine cities, according to Engineering News, are San Francisco, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Denver, Paterson, New Haven, St. Joseph, Omaha and Scranton. Two of these, Omaha and New Orleans, are already committed to municipal ownership. There are 97 cities with populations ranging from 100,000 to 30,000, and of those nearly 70 own waterworks, while a number of others are making more or less rapid progress toward municipal ownership. In discussing the cause of the drift to municipal ownership, an exchange says, "that a water supply is so essential to the general prosperity of a community, and so closely related to the comfort and health of every citizen, as to give rise to a strong feeling that its supply should not be intrusted to those whose primary object is profit."

There has been some agitation of late years in different sections of the Province for the publication of the Assessment Rolls of municipalities. In this connection a gentleman of experience recently made the following statement to the Belleville "Intelligencer":—"I believe that the only places where strictly correct and satisfactory assessments are made, is where the assessors' rolls are printed for distribution among the taxpayers. There is nothing like publicity to bring about the correction of abuses. As it is now not one man in a hundred cares to take the trouble to go and look at the assessors' rolls to see what other people's assessments are, but with the roll printed a surprising amount of interest is speedily shown. I know places where this is done, the township of Pickering, for example. People there told me they never had a thoroughly satisfactory assessment till the roll was printed, and I don't believe we will ever have one in Belleville till the same thing is done."