

Municipal Organization in Ontario

Township Councils. The system of township municipal government is direct and effective. Candidates for the offices of councillor and reeve are nominated at a meeting of ratepayers held on the last Monday in December. The poll, if one is necessary, takes place on the first Monday in January. The first council meeting is held on the second Monday in January at the township hall or other place fixed by by-law of the corporation. In most townships regular sessions of one day each are held monthly. The principal duty of township councils is the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Their other duties are largely statutory, and include: (1) levying and collecting school and county rates and general taxes for township purposes, such as maintenance of roads and bridges, salaries, etc.; (2) the construction of drainage and other works at the expense of the properties benefited. Other minor duties are attended to by officers appointed by the council.

Assessors. These are appointed annually, to enroll and value taxable real and personal property. The "roll" must include the names of all persons entitled to vote at municipal or other elections. Assessors assist in the selection of jurors, and, in union school sections, determine the proportion of the school tax to be levied for each section.

Township Treasurer. The township treasurer receives and disburses corporation moneys, as directed by the council or provincial statute. In the districts without county organization, he is required to perform additional duties connected with the collection of arrears of taxes.

Township Clerk. The chief executive officer, however is the township clerk. He holds office during the pleasure of the council, but is generally looked upon as a permanent official whose experience is most valuable to a council. His duties include the preparation of collectors' rolls and statute labor and voters' lists; the registration of births, deaths and marriages and other statutory duties connected with the Acts respecting pounds, line fences, drainage, assessment of taxable property, public schools, jurors, public health, etc.

Other officers are: collectors of taxes, local Boards of Health, pound-keepers, fence-viewers, auditors, valuers of sheep killed by dogs, fruit-tree and noxious weed inspectors, and commissioners for various purposes connected with the public works of the township.

Township Officers' Salaries. Special inquiries regarding the remuneration of the officers of seventy-one townships—situated in the Counties of Lambton, Lincoln, Grey, Ontario, Hastings, Frontenac, Carleton, and Waterloo—show that the salaries are not excessive and that the amounts vary with the population and size of the township.

Clerks' Salaries.

Lowest, \$30 00	Highest, \$600 00
Under \$100... 13	\$100 to \$200... 38
\$200 to \$300... 14	\$300 to \$600... 6

Clerks' Fees.

In addition to salary the clerk usually receives extra fees for special services. The practice in this respect is not uniform. Sixty-five received fees for registration of births, deaths and marriages. Forty-two are paid for administration of Ditches and Watercourses and Drainage Acts, and sixty receive fees for services Board of Health, revision of voters' list and selection of jurors and a few are allowed a special fee for services as returning officer for municipal elections.

Treasurers' Salaries and Security.

Lowest, \$23 00	Highest, \$200 00
Under \$100... 34	\$100 to \$200... 36
Security—	
Lowest... \$1,000 00	Highest... \$30,000 00

Eight treasurers are secured by guarantee bond, and in seven townships the cost is paid by the council.

Assessors' Salaries. Sixty-two townships reported but one assessor; others had as high as six. The salaries paid vary from \$16.00 to \$175.00.

Collectors. In fifty-seven townships but one collector is appointed; in others the number varies from 2 to 6. The salaries paid are from \$5.00 to \$200.00.

Auditors. Two auditors are appointed in all but one township, which has three. The salaries vary from \$2.00 to \$30.00. In one township the auditors receive \$6.00 per day.

Police Villages. When a portion of a township becomes thickly populated, there is need for some means of undertaking local improvements to roads and sidewalks and of applying certain sanitary and other regulations that cannot be extended over the whole township. Where the population does not justify its being formed into a separate corporation, The Municipal Act provides for the setting apart of unincorporated villages and hamlets. This offers simply a means of commuting statute labor and of securing local improvement works within the village. A better and more advanced step is the police village, which may be set apart by the county council on petition of the ratepayers interested and placed under the administration of three police trustees. The township council continues, however, to collect the annual taxes, though the village rate is struck in accordance with the money required by the trustees.

Town and Village Councils. The government of town and village municipalities is similar to that of townships. The Legislature has, however, extended the powers of the councils to enable them to cope with conditions incident to the concentration of population within a limited area. The nomination of candidates and election of members of town and village councils are held in the same manner and on the same day as in other municipalities. Council meetings are held monthly in the town hall.

The duties of council multiply with increasing population. In the larger towns, control of the lighting, waterworks and parks is usually in the hands of boards of commissioners elected by the people, the mayor being *ex officio* a member of the various boards. In other municipalities, committees of the council attend to these special duties, with the exception of public library administration. Under The Provincial Public Library Act a public library is placed in charge of a board composed of the reeve or mayor and three persons appointed by the council, three by the public school board, and two by the separate (Roman Catholic) school board, if there be any.

Town and village administration resembles closely that of township municipalities. A town treasurer differs, however, in caring for the collection of arrears of taxes and sales of land when taxes are in arrears for three years. The salaries paid municipal officials are modest. A statement prepared by Mr. W. G. Owens, of Forest, in 1902, referring to twenty-seven towns of between 1,300 and 2,900 population, shows that clerks' salaries vary from \$90 to \$575, treasurers' from \$40 to \$400, assessors' from \$35 to \$100, and collectors' from \$20 to \$120. In one town of 1,600 population, the officials supply their own offices and the total salaries paid the four officials