

# The Municipal World

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THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

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ST. THOMAS, AUGUST 1, 1898.

The County Council of York has decided to petition the Legislature to make more explicit the criminal code in reference to the conviction of persons who have committed petty larceny. The council wish the clause relative to the power of magistrates to imprison or fine to be made much clearer than at present.

At a recent session of the Ontario county council an effort was made to change the county's bank account from the Western Bank to the Dominion Bank, but the account was left with the Western Bank by its agreeing to reduce the rate of interest from five per cent to four per cent, and to pay all county cheques at par at any of its branches.

It is an old saying that competition is the life of trade, and it would appear that even banking is not an exception to its truth. Heretofore the municipal councils in Norfolk County have had to pay six per cent. for temporary loans made by them to carry affairs along until tax gathering time. The advent of the third bank in Simcoe has, however, had the welcome effect of bringing the rate down a peg, and now our municipalities get their requirements met at five per cent.—*Reformer.*

We notice that in some counties a difference of opinion occasionally arises in reference to the proper method to be adopted in the purchase of gaol supplies. In the rules and regulations for the government of common gaols within the province, section 12 refers to the duty of the sheriff and states that he shall see that all requisitions made by the gaoler for gaol clothing, furnishings and supplies are properly transmitted to the clerk of the council or to the chairman of the committee of the council having charge of gaol affairs, and that such clothing, furnishings and supplies are properly delivered.

## Dominion Franchise Act.

The Dominion Franchise Act of 1898 was assented to on the 13th June. Under its provisions the provincial franchises and Voters' Lists are adopted.

Municipal Clerks, of Ontario are particularly interested in section 10, subsections 1 and 2, which refer to the transmission of the certified copy of the list as finally revised by the Judge to the Dominion authorities.

(1) "Within ten days after the final revision of every list of voters for the purposes of provincial elections, it shall be the duty of the custodian thereof to transmit to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery by registered mail, a copy of such list, certified under the hand of such custodian, and having every alteration, addition or erasure therein identified by his initials. The fees to be paid for such certified copy shall be those fixed by the provincial law for furnishing such copies to applicants therefor, and if there is no fee fixed by the provincial law, shall be twenty five cents for each 100 hundred names including additions and descriptions and fifty cents for the certificate."

(2) "For the purposes of Dominion elections, such certified copy shall be deemed to be the original and legal list of voters for the polling division for which the list of which it is a copy was prepared so long as that list remains in force, subject, however, to such changes and additions as are, subject to revision, made in such list under the provisions of the provincial law."

The penalty for non-compliance is provided for by subsection 9 of said section 10, which reads as follows: "Every officer or person who, under the provincial law, is the custodian of any list of voters, or has the official record of any changes in or additions to any such list since the last final revision thereof, and who refuses or omits to perform any duty imposed upon him by this section, is guilty of an indictable offence, and for each such refusal or omission shall incur a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars and not less than one hundred dollars."

As soon as the Voters' List for 1898 is finally revised and corrected by the Judge, the Clerk should prepare a copy in accordance with the above, and send it per registered mail to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, Ottawa. Care should be taken to see that every alteration, addition or erasure is identified by the clerk's initials, and that a certificate under his hand is attached thereto. This certificate may be in the following form:

I, ..... Clerk of the Municipality of ..... Province of Ontario, do hereby certify that the annexed Voters' List for said municipality of ..... for the year ..... is a true and correct copy of the said Voters' List as certified by the County

Judge, in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Voters' List Act.

Dated at ..... this ..... day of ..... 1898.

Custodian of said Voters' List.

Seal of Municipality.)

The clerk is entitled to the same fee as that fixed by the provincial law. In Ontario when printed copies are furnished, the clerk is entitled to receive six cents for every ten voters whose names are on the list. This includes the price of the certificate. The account should be enclosed with the copy of the list.

County Judges and clerks of the peace are custodians of duplicate copies of the list and unless clerks forward them promptly they may be obtained elsewhere.

## Equalization in Dufferin County.

The Equalization Committee of the Dufferin County Council at the last session reported the following recommendation:

That the Government be asked to introduce legislation authorizing the assessment of townships to be made every three years instead of annually, thus rendering it possible to pay the assessor a higher salary without increasing the expense to the townships and ensuring more thorough and accurate work.

Your committee is also of the opinion that the winter months are times within which proper assessments cannot be made as lands cannot then be properly valued, and this has, in their opinion, resulted in many instances in no attempt whatever being made to examine them, the assessment rolls in some instances being merely copies of those of previous years, thus indicating that the assessors had not left their houses for the purpose of making a personal examination.

Your committee is also of the opinion that this later omission is largely due to the fact that the local assessors are insufficiently paid, it being impossible for them, without actual loss, to examine the lands within their respective municipalities as thoroughly as is contemplated by the Assessment Act on their present meagre payment for such work, and it would recommend that the local municipalities grant a more liberal allowance for such work, particularly if the legislation recommended be obtained.

Poor highways are incompatible with the public welfare.

The New York Board of Health placards houses where patients have removed or died of consumption, in such cases as the premises seem to warrant. Orders are also issued to the owners of the property to have it renovated before being again occupied.