

The Municipal World

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

K. W. MCKAY, EDITOR,

A. W. CAMPBELL, C. E.	} Associate Editors
J. M. GLENN, K. C., LL.B.	

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OFFICES—334 Talbot St., St. Thomas. Telephone 101

Address all communications to

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

Box 1321, St. Thomas, Ont.

ST. THOMAS. JUNE 1, 1903.

The council of the Township of Montague has purchased a stone crusher for the use of the corporation.

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Mr. G. A. Jordison, of Maynooth, has been appointed clerk of the united townships of Montague and Herschel, in the place of Mr. Wm. Gloster.

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Our next issue will contain all the Legislation enacted at the present session of the Legislature relating to municipal assessment and public and high school matters.

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The council of the Township of King, at a recent meeting, increased the salary of its clerk, Mr. J. L. Jenkins, from \$300 to \$350. This is an example that might well be followed by other municipalities in the Province.

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Some time ago at a meeting of the Associated Charities in the city hall, Toronto, a resolution was passed calling the attention of the Ontario government to the necessity for passing an Act compelling every county or group of counties, to erect and maintain its own House of Refuge. At the present session of the Legislature the Hon. Mr. Stratton has introduced a bill to accomplish the object of the above resolution.

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A meeting of representatives from the several local municipalities in the County of Essex, was recently held at the town of Essex, to consider the question of the improvement of the roads in that county. The participants in this meeting were unable to decide on any definite line of action in the matter.

High Municipal Standard.

Poultney Bigelow, a well-known American writer, has been enlightening the people of this continent in regard to the high standard of municipal life in Germany. "It would take some stretch of imagination to place the president of Harvard, or Thomas Edison, or Capt. Mahan, in the councils of the New York Board of Aldermen," he writes. "Yet I have seen in the municipal senate of Berlin, Mommsen, the historian; Prof. Koch, the bacteriologist, and others of that caste, giving their time and precious judgment on matters affecting the health and happiness of their fellow citizens, giving it cheerfully and without money payment." In the administration of municipal affairs Germany is almost as progressive as Great Britain and the study of many of its institutions will afford many surprises to those who are in the habit of thinking that all wisdom in regard to public affairs is confined to America.

Another citizen of the United States, Mr. Walter Wyckoff, a distinguished student of social conditions, in a recent number of Scribner's Magazine, pays a high tribute to the way in which London has grappled with the mighty problems which the growth of its vast population has called upon it to deal with. He is particularly warm in his praise of the board schools in the east end of the city and notes what a change the education given by them has brought in habits of cleanliness, obedience and good manners. He agrees with Sir Walter Besant in saying that these schools have so far abolished in the last generation the savagery of the old East London that it remains a vanished world, "one to be left to the region of poetry and fancy, to the unwritten, to the suggested, to the half-whispered; for it exists no longer; it has been improved." This does not mean that the slums are not to be found in East London, with conditions of appalling congestion, and all the attendant miseries of extreme destitution, but that, whatever may once have been the character of the city and of its people, the East End is no longer a city of slums, and its people, far from being "submerged" are a skilful, industrious, peaceful working population of high average intelligence, and equal, it is likely, to any reasonable competitive struggle.

Municipal problems in both England and Germany have claimed the attention of the brightest minds of both nations with the most happy results. A most admirable training ground for activity in the general affairs of state has been provided, while good city government has made national life sound at the core. No matter with what ability or integrity the central government is carried on, the effort of national statesmen will be largely futile unless at the head of local administrations we have men with a high sense of their responsibility and with the capacity

necessary to carry on successfully the affairs committed to their charge.—Sentinel Review.

A Suggestion as to County Councils.

To the Editor of the Municipal World:

SIR,—As there seems to be a determination on the part of our legislators to alter the "County Council Act," without discussing the pro's and cons of the said Act or the wisdom of tinkering (as it seems) with the constitution, permit me to make a suggestion.

Years ago we heard a great deal about "dual representation" and the law was changed so that a man could not be a member of both houses at the same time. No doubt Hon. Mr. Hardy had this in view when he introduced the new Council Act, and it was to overcome any collusion that might exist between the township and county councils, that the members of the latter were created as a separate body; also it was thought that by not being members of the local councils, they would have broader interests and not be so much governed by locality.

That there is a decided advantage in separate representation, is apparent. For instance, the closing of an old road or the opening of a new one. The County Councillors Act as senators, confirming or not confirming the by-law passed by the township council and signed by the reeve.

Now is it not better in this case as well as in the case of school section boundaries, etc., for the county representative to be free from the turmoil and prejudice usually engendered in such cases, and could he not give a more judicial decision. The greatest objection to the present Act is that it creates strife, and that each municipality should be represented—then why not retain the virtues of the old and new systems in an amendment to the "County Council Act," giving each municipality a county representative who is not the reeve or mayor.

But, as Mr. Whitney maintains let the system be uniform throughout the Province.

D. JACKSON
Warden Lincoln County.

[ED.—The above communication is most opportune in view of the lively interest taken in the bill amending the clauses of the Municipal Act relating to the election of county councillors introduced in the Legislature at its present session by the member for North Middlesex. We will be pleased to receive and publish communications from all other subscribers who desire to give their opinions on this question].

Mr. S. Steacy has been appointed treasurer of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry to succeed Mr. C. J. Mattice, deceased.