

## Duties of Deputy Returning Officers.

Previous to the municipal elections, City Clerk Kingston, of London directs the attention of deputy returning officers to their duties by circular from which we take the following :

2. The names of the electors entitled to vote in your Division will be found in Parts 1 and 2 of the Voters' List given you—in Part 1 if resident in your Ward—in Part 2 if non-resident. Widows and Spinsters will be found in Part 2 only.

3. In the event of a ratepayer coming to vote, and his (or her) name not appearing on list, be sure and ascertain :

(a) Whether yours is the Division in which such person should be entitled to vote, and if not, give instructions as to the proper Division.

(b) If yours is the proper Division, and the name does not appear, ascertain whether the party is assessed as owner or occupant of real estate—or for income—to the value respectively of \$400.00 or upwards. *Unless so assessed the ratepayer is not qualified.*

4. Place your initials on the back of each ballot given to a voter, and see that the voter's name is entered by your Poll-Clerk in his book, and that he places a mark in the proper column, to indicate what ballots such voter has received.

5. Electors are entitled to vote for Water Commissioners in each Ward where qualified the same as for Aldermen.

6. Section 139 of the Municipal Act directs that electors shall vote for Mayor at the polling place of the Ward or Polling Sub-Division in which they reside, if qualified to vote therein—or if an elector is non-resident, or not entitled to vote in the Ward or Polling Sub-Division where he resides, then where he first votes, and there only. *Please see that the Statute is observed in this respect.*

7. After the close of the Poll place all ballots used and unused, and all Forms and Certificates, in their proper envelopes, seal and place them in your Ballot Box; lock and seal your Ballot-Box; return same as soon as possible to the City Clerk.

9. Fill up and return at the same time to the City Clerk, over your own signature the form of Statement of returns from your polling place (*which you must be careful not to enclose in your Ballot-Box*), and which must show :—

(a) The names of the several Candidates as they appear on the Ballots.

(b) The number of Ballots cast in favor of each Candidate, placed opposite his name, and the number of Votes cast for and against each By-law (if any).

(c) The Christian and Surname of your Poll Clerk and Constable, and of the Janitor (if any) of the building in which your Poll was opened; but if in a private house, then the name of the party entitled to receive pay for the use of same.

## An Orderly Meeting.

The Missouri editor who was with us most of the week and attended a meeting of the Common Council as our guest, was astonished at every turn. When we refused to entertain Alderman Harper's motion to table a certain resolution, and simultaneously with the refusal got the drop on the alderman and choked him off, the man from the east caught his breath, and was ready to bolt for the door. He thought there would be shooting for sure. So, too, when Alderman Scott got up to present a resolution which was clearly out of order. We knew that if we waited to explain matters, the alderman would get the drop on us and smash Cushing's Manual all to pieces. Therefore, he had scarcely opened his mouth when we had a gun in line with his chin, and were courteously requesting him to sit down and let things take their course. Such things don't happen in St. Louis or Chicago, but we can't grow out of old habits and customs into new ones in a year. When we were made mayor it was expected that we would preside at the council meetings and keep things straight. We are doing it with two guns on a shelf under our desk, and doing it well, and up to date none of the six aldermen has succeeded in getting the drop on us. If things look a bit queer to our eastern friends, they must remember that every town has its ways.—*Arizona Kicker.*

## York Township.

The new system of carrying on public works in York township, under the supervision of the township engineer, who is directly responsible to the council—is said to be working admirably. In some sections of the township great improvements have been effected in the condition of the roads at half the former expense. Great improvements are noticeable on the Western Road, which is under the capable supervision of Commissioner John Bayliss. Mr. Bayliss pays as much attention to these matters as though he were doing the work for himself.—*Leader and Recorder.*

A prominent resident of Carlisle, England, who died recently, sent a message to his fellow citizens shortly before his death, stating: "That it had always been his object and his pleasure to live amongst them, and identify himself with their interests; that he was proud of being a native of Carlisle, and of having spent his life there; that he felt gratified and honored by the sympathy and kindness shown during his illness by all classes of the community. He wished to express his profound conviction that the greatness of England was due to its capacity for local self-government, and that its future progress depended on the extension of this capacity. He trusted that Carlisle would never be without a due supply of men who regarded it as at once their duty and pleasure to devote their zeal and energy to the promotion of the common welfare."

## Poor-Houses Needed.

The following letter recently appeared in the *Globe* from a Collingwood correspondent :

"There are thirty-four prisoners in Barrie jail, twenty-seven of whom were placed there because they were poor."

This is an old and pitiful story, and just as true, proportionately, of nearly all the counties as of Simcoe. Year after year all over the province the vote to erect and maintain a county poor house is voted down by the farmers. Question: Is a matter of that kind one which should be left to farmers for decision?

If the General Hospital, Toronto, or Mercer Reformatory, or Home for Incurables had been left to a general vote of the people of the province, would either of those noble institutions have been in existence to day? No, they would have been voted down by the farmers. This fact has been fairly well proved frequently, inasmuch as the voting for county poor houses in the villages and towns is invariably in favor of the scheme, but is outnumbered by the farmer's vote. While favoring "no coercion," as a rule, I should like to see our Provincial Legislature pass a law compelling every county to provide some other shelter for its poor than the common jail; the optional principle has proved a dead failure."

At Peterborough the grand jury referred to the indigents confined in the gaol as follows :

"We have visited the county gaol and found the inmates well cared for and everything clean and in good order, but we regret very much to find therein so many persons who have not committed any offence, save that of being poor." We find there several aged persons, and two young men, apparently respectable, well able to do any sort of work which might be provided, and who expressed their willingness to work, and we look upon it as a disgrace to a Christian community that these people should be compelled to associate with criminals and to a certain extent be branded as criminals.

We understand that the county council have already expressed their willingness to join the town of Peterborough in providing a House of Refuge for the poor of the town and county of Peterborough, and that the town council have persistently neglected and refused to do their part in making such provision, and we would suggest that if the town council continues in that course, that the county council do apply to Parliament for legislation to compel the town council to act in the matter, or to give the county power to proceed with the work and compel the town to pay their proper share of the expenses."

Some county councils have acted independent of the cities or separated towns in the erection of a house of industry, and are quite satisfied with their experiment.

## Toronto.

The city gives over \$25,000 a year for the support of the public library.

The total running expenses of the assessment department yearly is less than \$18,000.

Advertising lands for sale for arrears of taxes cost the city of Toronto nearly \$1,500 last year.

The estimated value of city buildings is \$1,602,620. On these there is a total insurance of \$636,980.

Salaries at the city hall of mayor, aldermen and municipal officers amount to about \$70,000 a year.