

# The Municipal World

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of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario

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If the number on your address label is 168, your subscription ends with this issue.

Our thanks are due to both councillors and officials for their co-operation during the year.

We will be pleased to receive renewal subscription orders from all and from those who may be retiring a recommendation to their successors.

Councillors who may be retiring from active municipal work should keep themselves informed by continuing their subscription to THE WORLD. Although not in the council, their advice on local matters will be welcomed at all times. Ability to criticise the acts of representatives in an authoritative way is one of the safeguards of our municipal system that should not be overlooked.

No clerk's office is complete without a file of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD. The annual index which accompanies this number, makes it an encyclopædia of law relating to the difficulties municipal officers meet with every day. Commence now by having one or more sets of THE WORLD bound so that future councils may have the benefit of the information contained therein.

During the year answers to 1,499 questions have been published in the Question Drawer. This is a considerable increase in the feature of the paper that makes it most valuable to subscribers.

We think THE MUNICIPAL WORLD for 1904 was better, both editorially and typographically, than former years. What do you think about it? Let us have your opinion and suggestions for improvement in any department.

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD staff will be prepared during December to promptly supply subscribers with all legal or other special information required by mail or otherwise. The month is one of the busiest for municipal officers and councillors, especially those seeking re-election. All who may desire to communicate with us by telegraph or telephone can do so at reduced rates after 6 p. m.

No other publication does as much for its subscribers as we are doing, and the question is often asked why we do not increase the price of THE WORLD. Being municipal officers ourselves, we thoroughly understand the position of municipal councillors and officers, and would say that your appreciation of our efforts can best be expressed by patronizing the supply department, which is reliable, up-to-date and complete in every particular.

Our stock of election supplies—sufficient for the whole Province—is ready for immediate delivery. A delay in the mails, a mistake on the part of an Express Company, or a big snow storm, may put you to considerable inconvenience. Avoid this by ordering election supplies at as early a date as possible.

In English municipalities the town clerk is a most important official. When making selections, councils do not confine themselves to applications from residents, but appoint the best men available. An advertisement for a clerk for the City of Winchester, recently published, concluded as follows: "Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, or by sending copies of testimonials, personally or by letter, to any member of the town council will disqualify."

We beg to call the attention of municipal councils, and such of their officials who are required to give security for the proper discharge of the duties of their respective offices, to the advertisements of The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company and The Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company in these columns. These companies furnish municipalities with undoubted and never-failing security, and the taking out of a bond in either of them will render it unnecessary for the official appointed to place himself under an obligation to friends or neighbors, to whom he would otherwise be compelled to resort for the required security. We would suggest that an application for a bond should be made out in duplicate, and one copy filed with the clerk of the municipality to be attached to the bond when received.

When all the obstacles to the better and purer municipal government are considered, their causes discussed and remedies proposed, we must at least come back to the fundamental proposition that the only real and effective remedy lies with the people themselves, in maintaining a continued interest in city government, and electing to office none but honest and competent men to discharge the important functions of municipal government. It is difficult to make the general public realize that it is almost as criminal to elect an incompetent man to office as it is to elect a dishonest one. The incompetent official is used by others just as effectively to accomplish selfish purposes at the municipality's expense as the dishonest official, who is usually careful not to trespass too far upon the public rights for fear of being detected. It is necessary to arouse the general public to a full realization of what it means to elect incompetent men to public office.