

The Municipal World.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

In the interests of every department of our Municipal System—the best in the world.

TERMS. \$1.00 per annum. Single copy, 10c.; Six copies, \$5.00, payable in advance.

EXPIRATION OF SUBSCRIPTION. The paper will be discontinued at expiration of term paid for, of which subscribers will receive notice.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Subscribers, who may change their address, should give prompt notice of same, and in doing so, give both old and new address.

COMMUNICATIONS. Contributions of value to the persons in whose interests this journal is published, are cordially invited. Those for next issue should reach the office of publication not later than the 20th of the month. Address all communications to

K. W. McKAY, EDITOR,

Box 1252, St. Thomas, Ont.

ST. THOMAS, AUGUST 1, 1894.

Municipal Statistics.

A most interesting volume of statistics of Ontario municipalities will shortly be issued: We have had the pleasure of looking over some of the advance sheets and find in 1890, the last year for which the returns have been completed, that \$779,028. was expended in township municipalities for roads, bridges and other works, that these municipalities contributed \$67,469 for the support of the poor and other charities, and for schools and education \$1,884,569.00. The total municipal and school taxes collected during the year to pay the above, as well as other municipal expenditure, amounted to \$4,563,863.00.

In the town and village municipalities the sum of \$2,232,456.00 was collected for municipal and school taxes; \$596,594.00 was expended on streets, bridges and parks, while \$40,478.00 was contributed to the support of the poor and other charities, and \$908,108.00 was the expense incurred on account of schools and education.

In city municipalities taxes amounting to \$3,945,508.00 were collected; \$2,282,089.00 was expended on streets, bridges and parks, and the support of the poor and other charities cost \$123,902.00, and the payments of the cities for schools and education amounted to \$993,699.00.

During the same year county rates amounting to \$1,312,795.00 were collected, of which \$225,913.00 was expended on roads and bridges. The administration of justice, gaol maintenance, etc., cost \$4,384.53, and the support of the poor and other charities cost \$56,678.00. The grants to schools and other payments for education amounted to \$427,510.00.

When all of the Ontario municipalities are considered, the total municipal and school taxes collected in 1890 amounted to \$10,741,827.00, and during the same year interest was paid on \$7,414,270.00, being the amount of money borrowed for current expenses. The sum of \$64,132.00 was paid to members of councils for attendance at meetings and committees; in addition to this the sum of \$669,050.00

was paid to officers and employees under the head of salaries, allowances and commissions. The total expenditure on roads bridges, streets and parks amounted to \$3,883,624.00. and the support of the poor and other charities cost on the aggregate \$288,527.00.

The largest item of municipal expenditure is on account of schools and education, the grand total being \$4,213,856.00.

To a student and municipal reformer statistics published in a form as convenient as that before us cannot help but be of great assistance. There is hardly a question of expenditure that municipal councils have to consider, concerning which they cannot obtain some valuable information, by an intelligent reference to the volume of municipal statistics, shortly to be placed in their hands.

How Public Charities Are Aided.

The apportionment of Government aid is made under the provision of "The Charity Aid Act" of 1874, and all the institutions entitled to a grant under its provisions are treated alike. They are provided for, under three classes, viz: (1) hospitals, (2) houses of refuge and (3) orphan asylums. The grant of public money to the first of these is made on the basis of 20 cents for each day's actual treatment of every patient in the institution, to the second on a basis of 5 cents for each day's lodgment and maintenance of an indigent person, and to the third on the basis of 1½ cents for each day's lodgment and maintenance of an orphan and neglected abandoned child, reckoned in each case on the number of inmates in the several institutions during the previous calendar year. And with the view of encouraging contribution by municipalities and from other sources, the act also further provides that further aid upon the same basis may be given of 10 cents to hospitals, 2 cents to houses of refuge, and 1½ cents to orphan asylums; but so as to not exceed one-fourth of the amount contributed from other sources in the preceding year.

All institutions in receipt of aid under the charity aid act of Ontario are subject to inspection from time to time by the inspector of prisons, who is authorized to make all proper enquires as to maintenance, management and affairs thereof, and to particularly satisfy himself by the examination of registers and other means as to the correctness of returns made under the act, and to report to the Government. The annual return for each institution is made by its officers according to forms prepared by the Government.

The introduction of the Torrens' system of land transfer is making slow progress in Ontario. A few counties have passed by-laws adopting the system, but so far few, if any, applications have been received for a Torrens' title outside of York

or Toronto. The first expense is no doubt the cause of this, but we believe that in the near future loan companies and other financial institutions dealing in real estate will insist on Torrens' titles for property coming into their hands.

Municipal Fire Insurance.

The committee of the city council appointed to investigate the subject of insurance rates for Toronto reports upon a plan which, upon the average fire loss records of the past eight years at one-half the usual premium rates, would save to the city the annual cost of the whole fire brigade, \$161,535.00; two salvage corps, \$15,000, and additional fire plant, \$10,000, besides a cash surplus of \$73,452.71. If it saved nothing at all, and only reduced the premiums a fraction of the rate used as a basis of calculation, it is worthy of most careful consideration and an early practical experiment. And as a result the corporation will, at the next session of the Legislature, apply for power to establish a civic insurance bureau. In Ottawa, St. Thomas, Brantford and other cities keen interest is being taken in the Toronto departure because people there are suffering from the same injustice to which our citizens have for so long been subjected. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to expect assistance from those cities in carrying out the policy for which many councils have declared. But the main hope for success will rest upon the patron members of the Legislative Assembly. The mutual idea has always been popular in the townships, and the representatives of organized agriculture can hardly refuse to entertain a proposal that Toronto shall push that idea to its fullest limit. It is far from being settled that the Legislature will turn a deaf ear to the petition. On the contrary there is an excellent prospect that it will be granted.

There was quite a crowd around a coal hole in the sidewalk, and it was soon learned that a lady who was passing had stepped into the uncovered hole, and they were getting her out. She was not hurt in the least, but rather frightened and dusty. A male relative who accompanied her was executing a series of gymnastics around her.

"Sure you're not hurt Addie?" he asked anxiously.

"Not a bit, Richard."

"No sprained or broken bones?"

"Not one. You see I was caught by a man who was passing, and that saved me from being hurt."

"Where is the officious wretch?"

"Richard he is my deliverer!"

"Deliver nothing! If you had just broken one little bone we could have sued the city and recovered \$10,000 damages."