

should be amended by making provision for a decision in case of a tie in some other way. However, as the law is the clerk should do his duty fearlessly and without partiality, irrespective of results.

Tax on Dogs for the Protection of Sheep.

A great many complaints are being made from time to time by parties interested that the sheep industry is being affected by the neglect of municipal councils to take advantage of the powers conferred on them by section 489 of the Municipal Act, sub-section 15, and by chapter 214 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario. In nearly all municipalities a large sum, derived from the tax on dogs, is applied every year to the general purposes of the municipality, and is looked upon by councils as one of the sources of revenue for general purposes, and but little attention paid to that for which this special tax is levied. Section 489 of the Municipal Act gives township councils power to pass by-laws for restraining and regulating the running at large of dogs and of imposing a tax on the owners, possessors or harborers of dogs, and for killing dogs running at large contrary to by-laws, so that if chapter 214 of the Revised Statutes does not deal with the matter to the satisfaction of members of the council they may pass by-laws imposing their own regulations within the limits of the powers referred to in the section mentioned. The act respecting tax on dogs provides that he may kill any dog which he sees pursuing, worrying or wounding any sheep or lamb, or any dog which he finds straying between sunrise and sunset on any farm whereon sheep are kept. Provided, always, that no dog so straying, and which belongs to, or is kept, or harbored by the occupant of any premises next adjoining said farm or next adjoining that part of any highway or lane which abuts on said farm, nor any dog so straying, either when securely muzzled or when accompanied by, or being within reasonable call or control of any person owning or possessing or having the charge of said dog, shall be so killed unless there is reasonable apprehension that such dog, if not killed, is likely to pursue, worry or wound sheep or lambs then on the said farm.

The Thornbury Bridge Arbitration.

This was an arbitration to decide the percentage the county of Grey should contribute towards the construction and maintenance of the Thornbury bridge, under the provisions of section 533 (a) of the Municipal Act, which provides that in case a municipality of less than 4,000 population should require, for the convenience of the public, the construction and maintenance of bridges of 100 feet in length or more, such municipality shall be entitled to a percentage of the costs of the works from the county council, when

the cost of such bridge creates greatly disproportionate expenditure by such local municipality. In this case application was made to the county council, who refused to appoint an arbitrator or take any action in the matter. The town made a successful application to the lieutenant-governor for the appointment of an arbitrator under the provisions of the act, and the arbitration was proceeded with. Statistics, covering the expenditure of each municipality in the county for ten years, were laid before the arbitrators, to show the proportionate expenditure of the local municipalities, and the award of the arbitrators was as follows: 1st, That the county of Grey shall contribute towards the construction and maintenance of the bridge in question, fifty-five per cent. for a period of ten years, including the present year, 1892. 2nd, That the county shall pay to the town fifty-five per cent. of the town's costs of the reference and the arbitrators' fees. In all other respects, each party to pay its own costs.

Use of Streets by Telephone Companies.

In the June number we stated that the Bell Telephone Company had been made to pay handsomely in many municipalities for the use of the streets for placing the poles on which they string their wires, and that other municipalities similarly should consider this when telephones were required for police stations, fire halls and fire alarm purposes. We notice that the town of Woodstock recently made what we would consider a very satisfactory agreement with this company, whereby the night fire alarm service, which heretofore cost \$200 annually, is to be given the town free of cost; the telephone company is to pay the town \$200 annually for five years for the streets; the company is to give the town the use of three telephones free of charge; the cost of the telephone service to subscribers is not to be increased above present rates; the telephone poles on Dundas street are to be raised to a height of fifty-five feet, and the wires carried up to such a height as not to interfere or obstruct the firemen; the poles are to be painted and the top arm to be reserved for the exclusive use of the town, the poles are not to be sublet without the permission of the council. This agreement is made for five years and effects a saving to the town annually of \$525.

A decree has gone forth that post-office employees must not act as school trustees. If it is intended to be general it will affect not only the public school board of Toronto, but of Hamilton, London and other places. Evidently the intention is that Dominion officials should not meddle in municipal affairs. This is a decided rebuke to the wirepullers in Toronto, who are panting for a municipal contest on political lines. If Government employees

are to refrain from acting in a public capacity they will not feel like doing the drudgery of a campaign at the command of the party managers. They could very well refrain from both kinds of work.—*Mail.*

The town of Brockville has spent \$5,000 to ascertain that they will have to pay the Brockville water company \$139,454 for their waterworks. The town now pays \$5,000 per year for water for fire purposes.

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It is rarely corporate bodies take the initiative in abolishing themselves, yet many municipalities are strongly in favor of such a move, as they believe it would be in the best interests of all concerned. For small counties and cities it seems absurd to think that it requires so many councillors to govern them, especially when we know that the controllable expenditure is very small, and, from appearances, may be less. To this may be added the fact that in reality the finance and board of works committees are the only controlling powers over what we have to spend, and surely their work could be done better with fewer members.

Publications Received.

During the past year we have been pleased to receive many copies of proceedings, auditors' reports, etc., from municipal officers. Want of space has prevented us from noticing these as we had intended. In future a column will be devoted to publications received and special items of interest contained therein.

A Century of Municipal History, County of Welland, part 1, 1792-1841, compiled by Ernest Cruikshank, and published by the county council, contains a short description of the origin of municipal government and legislation in Canada and the county. Early township records, commencing with the present century, are included, together with other information that must be not only valuable but interesting to residents of the county.

An Island Paradise, and reminiscences of travel, by H. Spencer Howell (*Hart & Riddell, publishers, Toronto*), is an interesting account of a visit to "The Sandwich Islands," "the Paradise of the Pacific," together with entertaining reminiscences of the author's voyage around, or rather, "twice around the world." These are exceptionally valuable present day opinions, with numerous illustrations of the different countries and people. By reading this handsome volume all can participate in many of the pleasures and surprises that are in store for an observant traveller in every part of the globe. As a high-class publication, by a Canadian author, it should meet with a large demand, and we predict that in this the publishers, who have paid every attention to the printing and binding, will not be disappointed.