

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but so that the publishers will know from whom they are received.

## Voters' Lists.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD:

DEAR SIR,—As the time for making out Voters' Lists is approaching, and as the easiest and least liable to mistakes is the best method to adopt, I submit my plan of preparing lists, which I think is the best. I discard all previous lists, and take the assessment roll as I find it.

Page 1:

Turner, Thos.....F  
James, Wm.....T  
Simpson, James.....F  
Taylor, John.....F  
Thompson, Chas.....T  
Johnston, Wm.....F  
Sample, John.....T  
Spackman, Hugh.....F

I take a scribbler and use a leaf for each letter of the alphabet, as follows:

A. B. and so on.  
C. D.

I find on page 1, Turner, Thos. I place the name in my scribbler, as under, following the column I find Taylor, John, which I place under No. 1.

## PART ONE OF LIST.

3. Turner Thos., Lot 1, Haron St., M.F., Owner  
1. Taylor John, Lot 12, William St., M.F., Owner  
2. Thompson Chas., 16, Main St., M.F., Tenant

I then number them, so as to make a strictly alphabetical list, as shown, and make my copy for the printer accordingly:

Taylor, John, etc.,  
Thompson, Chas., etc.,  
Turner, Thomas, etc.

Yours,

AN OLD CLERK.

## Shyster Lawyers and Clients.

The Elgin County Council will petition the Legislature to pass an act requiring all parties entering actions for damages against municipalities to give security for costs when in the opinion of the county judge they should do so. This is not a new question, but by united action the desired legislation may be secured. A few days ago a deputation of the Toronto Board of Trade, headed by President Caldecott, waited on the Provincial Cabinet with a view of getting amendments to the law that will make it more difficult for solicitors' actions to be started and prosecuted against merchants and others. They gave a number of instances in which the libel law had been used to extort money from publishers and others, as well as cases of injury where merchants had been compelled to incur heavy bills of cost in order to defend actions brought by worthless persons incited thereto by solicitors. The remedy suggested was to have all such cases submitted to a judge with authority to determine how the case should be tried, whether in the Division Court or by a jury.

In this way, Mr. Caldecott contended, no one would be deterred from obtaining justice because of poverty, while there would be no incentive to shyster lawyers to fake up cases and conduct them on speculation. Sir Oliver Mowat promised his serious consideration.

## The Township of South Walsingham and the Long Point Company.

Ever since the formation of the Long Point Company, the subject of assessment has been a bone of contention in the Township of South Walsingham, of which it forms a part. Long Point, now an island, was once a narrow peninsula, running from the westerly part of Walsingham in an easterly direction into Lake Erie about thirty miles. Many years ago the lake made a wide and deep gap, at the west end and at present is an island; on the south lake side is a wide sand beach, north of that the island is composed of sand ridges covered with woods, alternating with barren marshes. About the year 1865, Long Point Island with the adjoining marsh, with the exception of 150 acres, became the property of the Game Preserve Company. Deer used to be plenty on the Point, but were all killed off before the company assumed possession. The Point is now well stocked the company having placed many deer on it. Previous to its purchase by the company it was crown land, and was not assessed, but in 1867 it was assessed to the company at \$5,000, in 1868 \$5,200, in '69 \$7,000, in '70, \$8,000, but on appeal before the county judge was reduced to \$7,000 in '71, '75 \$8,000, when it was put up to \$10,000. This was gradually raised to \$15,000 in '84. In 1870 statute labor was charged against the company. The company appealed against the amount of assessment, \$8,000, and statute labor. The Court of Revision would not make any change and the company then appealed to the county judge, who reduced the assessment to \$7,000, and ordered the statute labor struck off the roll, the question having been brought before the Court of Queen's Bench and Judge Gait ruled that the county judge had no power to interfere with the statute labor.

In 1875 a by-law was passed to attach Long Point to a school section, but on appeal, the county judge and the education department decided that it could not be annexed to any section, but could be formed into a new section, which, however, has not been done. In 1884 an appeal against the county, equalization having been made by the Township of Woodhouse, the whole question of values came up. Judge McMahon put Long Point at \$75,000 dollars in his report, and consequently, in 1885 the assessor entered it at the same, *i.e.*, \$75,000. On appeal, before Judge Livingstone it was reduced to \$15,000, and assessed at this amount until 1890, when it was raised to

\$25,000; in 1891, \$30,000; 1892, \$35,000; 1895, \$40,000. On appeal before Judge Robb the assessment was again reduced to \$15,000, and so it stands at present. If some agreement is not come to between the company and the township, the question of assessment will continue to be a source of expense and trouble to both the township and the company. No claim has been made for either school tax or statute labor since 1875.

## A Sinking Fund Commission.

A practical suggestion was made by Ald. Preston in the Toronto city council the other day when he moved in the question of having a commission appointed to manage sinking funds. In support of his motion, he pointed out that there were large sums in arrears of taxes which were now carried by overdrafts in the banks. The city had been paying large amounts for interest. In 1890, \$49,000 were paid; in 1891, \$44,000; in 1892, \$48,000; in 1893, \$50,000; in 1894, \$43,000; in 1895 \$30,000. What he wanted to do was to see if something could not be done by which the payment of large sums in bank interest in advance of the collection of taxes might be avoided, and part of the sinking funds applied temporarily for that purpose. Roughly speaking, he thought they could save \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year if they could get the permission of the legislature to use the council's own moneys.

For many years there would be large sums of sinking funds under the control of the corporation. The treasurer had manifested much wisdom in managing this fund in the past, but, with all deference to the council, it had placed too much responsibility on one man. He thought it might be an improvement if a Board of Trustees were appointed, consisting of the Mayor, the Chairman of the Executive and one private citizen, who for a very moderate emolument would manage these funds.—*Globe*.

## Vacant Lot Cultivation.

In Boston the experiment has been tried of allowing poor people to cultivate the vacant land convenient to the city. An important committee of leading citizens have been given charge of this business. The committee have recently made a report, in which the results of the plan are very favorably spoken of. A tract of sixty acres of land was secured near the city and divided up in plots of one acre each. A number of these lots were cultivated by women, and their children. The harvest of potatoes and other vegetables was good. The committees consider the plan an excellent one, and among the other good results it is creating a taste for farming among the unemployed of the city.