

The Municipal World

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In the interests of every department of the Municipal Institutions of Ontario.

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THE MUNICIPAL WORLD,

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ST. THOMAS FEBRUARY 1 1900.

The local option by law in Mono township was defeated by nearly 200 majority.

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Mr. John Hutton, who has been clerk of the township of Metcalf for the past twenty seven years, has resigned, and at the first meeting of the council Mr. Richard Ward, of Glenwillow, was appointed to succeed him.

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In the township of North Dumfries, all the \$13,000 taxes levied for 1899 had been collected before the first meeting of the council except \$1.00 dog tax. The above should be very gratifying to the ratepayers of the municipality.

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The report of the Provincial Board of Health for November shows that the total number of deaths in the province was 1,474 as compared with 1,910 for the same month last year. The deaths from contagious diseases numbered 252.

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Levy a rate that is needed, and then keep inside the appropriations, but don't try to make ten dollars do eleven dollars worth of work. Striking a low rate and then trusting to luck to get through is simply obtaining a reputation under false pretences.

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The reeve and councillors, of the township of St. Vincent, at a recent meeting, presented their township clerk, Mr. G. G. Albery, with a fine gold watch, chain and locket, also a beautiful gold pen, as a token of the appreciation of his services to the municipality. The reeve, Mr. Read in making the presentation, spoke very kindly of the clerk's good services during his term of office, and closed his address with some very pleasant and humorous remarks.

In a recent report, of the proceedings of the meeting of the council of a certain Ontario township, we noticed the following resolution, duly moved, seconded and carried: "Moved by ———, seconded by ———, that the council advertise for the following officers: Clerk and treasurer, tenders to be either separate or combined; also for assessor and collector, either separate or together. Marked tenders to be addressed to the reeve, not later than February 8th, 1900. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted." We have repeatedly, in these columns called attention to the illegality of this method of appointing municipal officers. Sub-section 2, of section 320, of the Municipal Act provides as follows: "No municipal council shall assume to make any appointment to office or any arrangement for the discharge of the duties thereof, by tender, or to applicants at the lowest remuneration." The council should select persons to fill the respective offices, who are competent to do the work, and pay each of them a fair salary or remuneration for the work they are respectively required to do.

* * *

On the 1st January last, the ratepayers of Paris voted on a by-law to raise \$30,000 for the erection of new school buildings in that town. The by-law was defeated, and as a consequence seven of the members of the Board of Education have resigned.

* * *

At the last municipal election there was not a single contest for municipal honors in North Wentworth, every district electing its representatives by acclamation. Such a thing has not taken place for years. While this is not a particularly interesting condition of affairs to the politician, the printer, or the fellow who is looking for favors, liquid and solid, it means a saving of hundreds of dollars to the municipalities affected.

* * *

The *Beeton World* says that at the Innisfil nominations E. A. Little, M. P. P., thought the county council did wrong in levying the amount necessary to complete the House of Refuge in one year, instead of spreading it over a term of years, as was done with the estimated cost. He also objected to the county council paying back to the various municipalities of West Gwillimbury, Vespra, Barrie, Essa, Tecumseth, Beeton, Tottenham and Adjala the amount of over-levy for the Hamilton and the Northwestern railway sinking fund, and which had been stolen by S. J. Sanford, as the municipal councils in those municipalities should have known when their debentures were paid, and if they went on paying they should pay for their neglect. He had been informed that the amount paid to West Gwillimbury enabled that township to make either no levy or a very small one last year.

Another Case for Damages.

Mr. Valentine Flood recently entered an action against the city of Hamilton, in the Ninth Division Court, of the county of Wentworth, for damages for injury done to his raspberry and currant crop through the smothering of the bushes with clouds of dust from the roadway. The top dressing of the highway was largely composed of cinders secured from foundries, and in his evidence the plaintiff alleged that it contained particles of a chemical nature especially blighting to fruit. This was corroborated by the evidence of a chemist. The jury awarded Mr. Flood the full amount of his claim, namely, \$60, and full costs of suit.

Police Magistrate Moffat, of Pembroke, after trying his persuasive powers on the town authorities in an endeavor to procure from them the things necessary to enable him to perform his magisterial functions properly,—such as fuel, light, stationery and furniture, and the like—decided to take another way, and brought suit before Chancellor Boyd to compel the town to furnish his office. The chancellor gave judgment for \$36, the cost of stationery to April last, disallowing the balance of the demand. The magistrate does not even get costs.

* * *

At a recent meeting of the Nottawasaga council there were claims put in for over \$1,600 for sheep killed by dogs. The dog-tax paid 41c. on the dollar of this amount which was all the claimants got. In cases of this kind, the council should ascertain whether amounts collected and placed to the credit of the dog fund in previous years had been expended. Balances to the credit of this fund for previous years are available to claimants, as well as the amount of the dog-tax collected in the year in which the claims are made.

Complimentary.

Toronto, Jan 6, 1900.

The Editor, MUNICIPAL WORLD,

Dear Sir,—I have just received the January number of the MUNICIPAL WORLD and beg to compliment you upon its "policy of expansion," neatness of form, superior quality of paper, style and general make-up. It is certainly very encouraging to note the gradual improvement in this journal which has grown to be an indispensable municipal authority, and at this particular season of the year, it must be quite in order to congratulate you upon its present commanding position and dignity.

This large volume full of the most valuable articles on all the leading questions pertaining to municipal work and management rendered in the simplest and most practical language, makes it away and by far the most valuable educator in the municipal arena.

Yours very truly,

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