

# 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 JULY 2, 1901.

At the last session of the council for county of Ontario, it was decided to erect a house of refuge at the town of Whitby.

Section 8 of the Line Fences Act was amended by section 21 of chapter 12, Ontario Statutes, 1901, by inserting after the word "given" in the fifth line thereof, the words, "by the clerk of the municipality with whom the same has been deposited."

The town solicitor of Peterborough has recently given it as his opinion that telephone, telegraph and electric light companies have no right to cut trees upon the highways of the town without the consent of the owners of the property, and that the matter was, further, under the complete control of the municipal council.

Scarboro township makes its own concrete pipes for culverts and sewers. The moulds for making these pipes are made of spring steel and are composed of an outside casing resembling a stovepipe. They are 2½ feet in length, the inner one being less in diameter so as to leave a space between the two of about ¼ inches. These are set on end and the concrete mixed and shovelled in.

Mr. A. W. Campbell, the Deputy-Commissioner of Public Works, and Good Roads Instructor for Ontario, was up in North Renfrew last week lecturing on the question of good roads. He delivered addresses in Beachburg and Westmeath to large audiences of farmers who had gathered to hear him. He came at the invitation of the township council who have in contemplation the improvement of the roads of the municipality.

In its issue of the 17th May last, the *Sarnia Observer* editorially pays a glowing tribute to the worth and ability of Mr. James Watson, the late clerk of the township of Moore. For nearly thirty-two years he faithfully discharged the duties of the office, and recently resigned by reason of advancing age. He is succeeded by Mr. Chas. C. Watson.

The city council of Guelph has passed a resolution favoring the introduction of a by-law to secure the voice of the people on the proposition to elect twelve aldermen by a general vote instead of eighteen by wards as at present. The principal objection to the submission of such a by-law hitherto has been the fact that each ratepayer could vote for aldermen in every ward in which he possessed the necessary property qualification. This objection was removed by legislation enacted at the last sittings of the Ontario legislature.

Albion township fathers have asked the pathmasters throughout the township to prevent as far as possible the cutting down of shade trees along the highways in their respective divisions. In some divisions hardly a tree of any kind is to be seen. In a few years, perhaps the council will be offering a bonus to those who will plant trees on the roads. Speaking of shade trees brings to our mind the report of a convention of the heads of mutual fire insurance companies, held in Toronto a few days ago. At that convention it was decided that owing to the largely increased number of fires occurring in the rural districts, the rates would have to be raised. It was stated that the absence of trees exposed barns and houses to the lightning, and that as the trees disappeared the number of fires increased. There is food for reflection here for those who cannot sleep nights until every tree about the farm has been felled.

### Municipal Association.

In Carleton Place there is a flourishing organization known as the "Municipal Protective Association" and, according to the *Herald's* report of their last meeting, the Association has a worthy mission which it is endeavoring to carry out. Too often municipal councils are elected because the candidates are "jolly good fellows" or members of some influential local fraternal organization. Sometimes because they are great blusters, and at times because of their religious views, while their fitness to represent the corporation, and look after its interests is never once thought of. The Municipal Protective Association, which is composed of some of the best business men of Carleton Place, is intended to watch closely the business transactions of the council, to advise its members when necessary and to lend its influence to the election of the best men to the council board.—*Smith Falls News*.

### Disposition of Collector's Bond.

We feel constrained to again call attention to the fact that a number of municipal councils are in the habit of delivering up the bonds of their respective collectors for cancellation as soon as it is made clear to them that these officials have made the returns required by sections 147 and 148 of the Assessment Act. Since commenting on this dangerous practice in our last issue, our attention has been drawn to another instance in which it has been done. Why, in spite of repeated warnings, councils persist in thus transgressing, we are at a loss to understand. Their duty is plain; to allow the bond to remain in the custody of the clerk as one of the municipal records, uncancelled. It then remains a good and valid security for the reimbursement to the municipality of the amount of any deficit that may be discovered after the roll has been returned. The handing over of the bond to the collector or his sureties is wholly without legal authority, a breach of the duty that councillors owe to the ratepayers who elect them, and they thereby needlessly incur the risk of having, at some future time, to shoulder the blame for losses sustained by their municipality on account of their careless or wilfully negligent method of performing this part of their municipal work.

Section 562 of the Municipal Act was amended by section 19 of chapter 12, Ontario Statutes, 1901, by inserting immediately after sub-section 1 thereof, the following:

1. (a) For purchasing or otherwise acquiring and taking a conveyance from any company incorporated under the laws of the province, or the late province of Canada, of any harbor within the municipality or within any adjacent municipality, in the same county, or for selling or conveying such harbor to any purchaser thereof.

### Steel Flag Staffs.

Among the practical and beautiful products of this "age of steel," the galvanized steel flag staffs, made at Brantford, by the Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., Limited, occupy a high place. A number of these new century up-to-date staffs occupy prominent positions at Thorold, Niagara Falls Park, the Gore, Hamilton; the Collegiate Institutes of Brantford and Hamilton, Toronto Exhibition Park, also at Massey-Harris Co.'s office, the Albany Club and other points in Toronto; at Stratford, Dunnville and Beamsville public schools, besides numerous others at Brockville, Pembroke, Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada. The G. S. M. Co. have an established reputation as makers of windmills and gasoline engines. Their advt. appears in this issue, and they will be pleased to give full information and prices to all who ask for them.