

Governor in Council may, by letters patent, erect any territory forming a village municipality into a town municipality, if it contains at least 2,000 people; and may erect any village or town municipality into a city municipality if it has a population of 6,000, the number of the population being determined by a special census. The council applying for the erection of its territory into a city or town municipality must give public notice of its intention in the *Quebec Official Gazette*, and furnish certain particulars as to population, the proposed name and limits of the city, the number of its wards and councillors, the proposed time of voting, etc. (secs. 14-16).

Notwithstanding the excellent General Clauses Acts, with their provisions for the growth of villages and towns, and easy change of status from village to town and from town to city as population and area warrant, the very general tendency on the part of villages and towns is to apply to the legislature for special charters of incorporation; while the legislature, provided the application is made with a fair degree of unanimity, never withholds its consent, and presumably as unflinching collects the incidental fees. The special Acts of incorporation that have been granted, notwithstanding the facilities offered by the municipal code and the General Clauses Acts referred to, are very numerous. But it is fair to assume that the "Cities and Towns Act of 1903" is likely to arrest the stream of applications.

#### *The Municipal Code.*

The province of Quebec also possesses a special municipal code, which was introduced into the legislature by the Honourable G. Ouimet, as Attorney-General, in 1870. It applies to all the territory of the province other than the cities and towns incorporated in virtue of the General Clauses Act, the Cities and Towns Act, or by special statute. This territory is divided into county municipalities, which are in most cases identical with the counties as electoral divisions for the provincial assembly.<sup>2</sup> Each county may include country (rural), village and town municipalities. A country municipality may consist again of a

<sup>1</sup>The Municipal Code applies to municipalities created by the general division of the whole province into such.