

# The Municipal World

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ST. THOMAS, JULY 1, 1897.

The Barrie town council propose amalgamating the offices of clerk and treasurer.

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The county council of Victoria will purchase a stone crusher, to be rented to the townships.

\* \*

The county council of Kent have appointed a committee to select a site for a house of refuge and report at the December sessions.

\* \*

The Oxford county council have appointed a commission to ascertain the value of the toll roads in the county, and report on all matters necessary to the purchase of the roads and abolition of the tolls.

\* \*

We notice that some councils have limited their official's office days during the months of July and August, while others have granted them leave of absence for a month or more. This is a proper recognition of efficient services at a time when most appreciated.

\* \*

The county councils of Northumberland and Durham have changed the rules and regulations governing their proceedings. One innovation is that when the warden enters the chamber, the members shall rise and remain standing until he takes his seat. The time for receiving nominations for warden is limited to fifteen minutes. This is a matter that should regulate itself, and be determined by the county clerk, acting as chairman. A council has a right to make regulations for its own proceedings, but such regulations can apply only to the council after its organization, and not to a body which is not a council in the legal sense until it is formally organized by the election of the warden.

County Treasurer S. J. Sanford, of Barrie, is the latest defaulting treasurer. The county council will now have an audit to ascertain how much they lose. This will extend over Mr. Sanford's term of office. The auditors are Mr. McEachren, of Elmvalle, and Provincial Auditor Laing.

\* \*

The municipal deputations to Toronto and Ottawa have been quite as numerous as in former years. We notice that a number of civic deputations on corporation business were in Toronto during the race meeting in May, and that their stay was prolonged for reasons contained in reports presented with bill of expenses incurred.

\* \*

The county council of Kent has made an arrangement with the police magistrate of the city of Chatham to act for the county. Police magistrates, under salary, usually confine themselves to cases belonging to the municipality paying them, although their jurisdiction extends over the county. The Kent council has secured the services of an experienced magistrate at a nominal salary of \$100.

\* \*

The chairmen of two of the committees of a city council, at a recent session, presented their reports, and then complained that they were not correct, and proceeded to find fault with an official who had been obliging enough to prepare the reports which they had signed. The effect was to enlighten the public as to their incapacity, and direct attention to the fact that officers of a council generally do a lot of work for which the people's representatives with no experience take credit.

\* \*

The town engineer of Peterborough undertook to inspect the sidewalks on his bicycle, and had a charge laid against him for so doing. The council refused to exempt him from the provisions of their by-law. Sidewalks cannot be more efficiently inspected than when on a bicycle, and there should be no objection to the official in charge performing this duty once or twice a year on his bicycle, on such days as may be appointed by the council.

\* \*

There is a great difference in township regulations requiring fenceviewers, poundkeepers and pathmasters to take the statutory declaration of office. The township council of Downie ordered that each of these officers must make his declaration of office before a justice of peace or clerk of the municipality or a fine will be imposed according to township by-law, and that the mere signing of name to declaration and returning same to clerk is useless, and will not be accepted. Declaration of office can only be made before clerk, reeve or a justice of peace having jurisdiction in the municipality.

The warden of Essex at the opening of the June session of the county council made the following suggestion in reference to the printing of auditors' reports, which in his opinion do not receive full consideration when brought before the council five months after the close of the year. "It would be much better if the auditors could be continued in office in order to make their audit to the 31st of December (early in January) so that their report could come before the council at the session held at the end of January; everything then would be fresh and the council would be posted before commencing the business of the new year with every item spent to the end of the preceding year."

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The Renfrew county council passed the following resolution at its last session: "That in the opinion of this council it would be much better if each county councillor had a seat at all of the township councils within his division, without voice, so that he would be more in touch with the workings of each municipality that he represents as such councillor." We do not think that any local council would object to county councillors taking a seat at the council table with them, provided they were not required to remunerate them for the honor conferred. County councillors should endeavor to become acquainted with members of the local councils, and the requirements of each municipality in their districts.

\* \*

The Welland county council have fixed the fees for services under the County Councils' Act, as follows:

Nominating officers, for all services.....	\$8 00
Deputy returning officers.....	3 00
Poll clerks.....	1 50
Constable.....	1 00
Municipal clerk, for extra services.....	4 00
Rent of polling booth.....	4 00

It would appear from the County Councils' Act that the councils of local municipalities should fix the remuneration of the deputy-returning officers and other expenses connected with the poll, and that in case of dispute between the local municipality and the county the difference between them is to be settled by the county judge.

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The frightful waste of life and of money in Bombay due to municipal filth and carelessness with the beginnings of epidemic outbreaks, should have many lessons for some of our own cities where the disposal of excreta and other wastes is far from being systematic, where a sewage-polluted water supply is in use, or where the prompt and efficient control of infectious diseases does not prevail. Every little while there is an awakening in some of our towns, when the inevitable bills for hundreds of dollars come in for wasted money, and time, and lives. The cost of fairly efficient local public health work should be regarded as the necessary payment of the premiums on a municipal health assurance policy.