

Nominations.

The electors in counties will this year have two nomination meetings to attend.

FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

The meeting will be held on Monday, the 21st day of December. Nominating officer, appointed by the warden, will preside, and the nominations are to be made between one and two o'clock in the afternoon.

FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS.

The meetings will this year be held on the 28th December, except where county councils have changed the date by by-law. The clerk of the municipality is the presiding officer and is required to give at least six days notice by advertisement or poster. This year, advertisements should be published on the 19th December.

By amendment of section 110, passed at last session of the legislature, councils of townships may provide for the nominations to be held at one o'clock in the afternoon, instead of noon as formerly. This does not affect the meeting for the nomination of candidates for the office of reeve in township divided into wards, which is to be held at 10 a. m. as formerly.

THE MEETING.

The electors, when the nominating or returning officer is absent, may choose a chairman. Nominations may be received from one hour from the time fixed for holding the meeting. A nomination is required to be moved and seconded. After the nominations have been received and there is more than one candidate for the same office, the returning-officer, or chairman, should adjourn the meeting until the first Monday in January, and state when and where the polls will be opened.

RESIGNATIONS.

Any person proposed for one or more offices may resign at the nomination meeting or following day, or elect for which office he is nominated. A nomination meeting continues for one hour only, and from the time that meeting is adjourned until midnight the following day the candidates nominated may hand in their resignations to the clerk or nominating officer, in writing, signed and attested by two witnesses. If the resignation is not received by the time mentioned there is no alternative, but to go on and hold the election.

POLL.

The polls will be held on Monday, the 4th of January, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to the poll-books and other forms required by the Municipal Act to be furnished deputy-returning officers, it is the clerk's duty to give each deputy-returning officer a printed copy of the last revised Voters' List for the ward or polling subdivision in which the deputy proposes to act, to which should be attached a certificate stating that it is the proper Voters' List to be used at the election.

Criminal Carelessness.

ON THE PART OF THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE PUNISHABLE.

The Health Act is incomplete, inasmuch as no penalty is provided for boards of health which neglect their duty. Warton has just had twenty-two cases of diphtheria and four deaths. The disease became epidemic simply because children from infected houses were allowed to attend school and public funerals were permitted.

Carelessness at St. Thomas caused a similar outbreak. Yet men who accept responsible positions on boards of health because they think there is honor in the appointment are not brought to account for the neglect which has consigned many of their fellow beings to premature graves. When a citizen accepts a responsibility he should do his duty, and when he neglects that duty he should be punished.—*Chatham Planet.*

The ex-treasurer of Guelph made a settlement with the city council and pleaded guilty to the charges laid against him, and was sentenced to three months imprisonment without hard labor. The judge in sentencing the prisoner, referred to the municipal audit system as follows:

"The man who is in business and handling other people's money, which he is at liberty to mix with his own, may use his employer's money intending to restore it. It may be by mistake, and if the mistake is not discovered it leads on to other things of the same kind. The system of auditing pursued in the municipal affairs of the province is a system of the loosest kind, and I am informed that it has been so here. It must be so, or these charges could not have been proved here in the number that they have. There is that to be considered. The gentleman had been employed in an important situation without anything like an adequate remuneration which the situation calls for. This was a temptation to use the money, at first not improperly, but which may become improperly."

* * *

The Toronto Telegram referring to municipal finance and the occasional losses through dishonest and inexperienced treasurers, suggests that:

"All the misfortunes of municipal treasurers point to the necessity for a provincial audit. The sum which municipalities now pay for auditors who do not audit, would more than maintain a department of provincial auditors who would audit. There could be an authorized form of municipal accounts, and provincial auditors could go to the municipal treasurers once a year, and oftener if desired, and check their books. The result of the change would be that treasurers would not attempt to deceive the auditors, and the system would save them from disgrace and the municipalities from loss."

We do not think there is any necessity for the appointment of provincial auditors. A system whereby a county auditor appointed by the county council will be *ex officio* one of the auditors of the accounts of local municipalities in the county would have the desired result. The manner of keeping the accounts to be regulated by statute. The councils of towns and cities should be required to appoint a chartered accountant as one of the auditors:

As late as 1770 the journey from Liverpool to London was dangerous on account of the bad condition of the roads.

Cost of Electric Lighting in Ontario.

The chairman of the Chatham fire and light committee recently presented a report to the council showing the cost of electric lighting in Ontario as follows:

Chatham—65 lamps, all night, 23 1-2 cents each per night.

Brantford—55 lights, all night, 23 cents.

Cobourg—23 lights, till midnight, 22 1-2 cents.

Port Hope—33 lamps, till midnight, 15 cents.

Peterboro—25 cents per night, all night.

Ingersoll—36 lights, till midnight, 20 cents.

Woodstock—70 lights, till midnight, 19 cents.

Belleville—61 lights, all night, 24 cents.

Galt—50 lamps, 22 cents till midnight.

Hamilton—369 lights, all night, 25 cents.

Guelph—90 lights, all night, 24 1-22 cents.

Owen Sound—30 lamps, all night, 30 cents.

London—300 lamps, all night, 25 cents.

Although Toronto's assessment shows a decrease of ten million dollars this year the Telegram contends that "Toronto is just as rich to-day as she was a year ago, but the assessors' returns are not nearly so rich in fictitious valuations. A reduced assessment was an absolute necessity, and will prove a most efficient curb upon the extravagance of aldermen who could formerly urge a sixteen-mill rate, although upon an inflated assessment, as an evidence of economic administration."

The Chatham Banner cannot see why the office of deputy-reeve should be retained when such office will simply have the status of town or township councillor, and thinks it may be amended at next session of the legislature. In towns it might be a good idea to cut down the number of councillors from each ward to one or two and continue to have the reeve and deputy reeve elected by the whole vote of the municipality—as they are now. In a town, with three wards, this would give a mayor, reeve and deputy-reeve, and, with a councillor from each ward, would make a council of six.

After the confiscation of monastery property in Spain by the state much of the proceeds were devoted to the making of the roads.

The East India Company began, and afterward the British Government continued, the construction of roads in India, and now all parts of the peninsula are well provided.

The country roads of the United States do not compare favorably with those of any nation in Europe. During the spring season in many districts of the Western States the roads are practically impassable.