

### Houses of Industry.

The question of whether or not the erection of a House of Industry is advisable, is now one of considerable prominence in all counties not possessing one of these institutions. The grant offered by the Ontario Legislature to assist counties in this direction is a liberal one, and has induced many councils to take active steps towards procuring information from counties in which they have been successfully conducted for some years. For the information of those who may be considering this important subject. I have a few suggestions to offer in a general way which experience in the management of one of the institutions has brought to my notice.

The first essential to be considered after the Council has decided on the erection of a House of Industry is to locate it near the centre of the county, and not more than two miles from a town or village and a railway station. By so doing the expense of conveying inmates to the institution whither borne by the local municipalities or the county will be at a minimum. If situated near the county town, it will be at all times accessible to the county councils and grand juries, and continually under the supervision of the inspector who, in most cases, is the county clerk or treasurer. One object in having it situated near a large town is that there will be better facilities for securing supplies which is an important item. Satisfactory arrangements can sometimes be made when a town is separated from the county for joint action in the erection and management of the House of Industry. This is not desirable.

The location having been decided on, the amount of land, character of the soil, water supply and drainage must be considered. In the institutions at present established in the province, the quantity of land varies from 45 acres in Middlesex to 141 acres in Waterloo. Only two counties have industrial farms containing more than 60 acres. Fifty acres has, in the majority of cases, been found to be all that can be worked conveniently without increasing the help actually required to manage these institutions, be they large or small. The soil should be of a light or sandy loam, such as can be easily worked by the labor of the inmates. This is an important consideration, and is the experience of the management of all the existing institutions.

An unfailling supply of pure water will be required, and facilities for drainage of the farm and sewage from the institution in an inexpensive manner must not be overlooked. If it can be conveniently located adjoining a body of water, the meat supply required can be reduced by allowing the inmates to catch fish for the benefit of and use in the institution. This at first may seem a small matter, but when I say that the meat account will be one of the largest items of expenditure in connection with the maintenance of the

inmates, the suggestion no doubt will be appreciated.

Having procured a suitable farm, the character of the building to be erected must receive careful consideration. A partial basement with one or at most two flats above is considered by many to be preferable. The physical condition of the inmates in the majority of cases renders them unable to climb long flights of stairs such as are at present to be found in some institutions. Provision for the escape of in case of fire favors a low building.

The plan should provide for the complete separation of the sexes for bath rooms, for hospital wards and facilities for the isolation of a greater or smaller number in case of an epidemic. Ample room must also be provided for a large kitchen, convenient store rooms and cooking apparatus of sufficient size. The dining rooms should be near the kitchen, and in the basement. The laundry should be separated from the main building and have proper drying rooms attached. Cottages or separate buildings for the isolation of certain classes of inmates are necessary.

Outside of these general features the building may be such as the circumstances require.

The heating apparatus, and at the present time preference in most cases is given to the hot water system, should be placed in the institution when it is erected. This should be constructed in the best possible manner, and care taken in accepting the lowest tender, to see that the work is to be done equally as well. If constructed in a first class manner it will be economical, while if, on the other hand, a first class job is expected for a third class price; the repairs and improvements that will continually be required will, sooner or later, increase the price to what it would have been had a tender at an amount sufficient to pay for first class work been accepted.

In future issues further suggestions in connection with this important subject will appear and will include descriptions of all of the Houses of Industry in the province, with full particulars as to the management and expenses connected therewith.

Mr. Parrot, of the Village of Bath, in the County of Lennox, has offered 20 acres of land and \$1,000 towards the erection of a county poor house.

### Officers Appointment and Salaries.

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. (See section 278 Municipal Act). The lowest tender is not always the most satisfactory for acceptance, and so much has this been found the case in the management of municipal affairs that the Legislature has been compelled to interfere. Poor pay, poor service is generally the rule. Good pay to good servants will, in the long run, be found to be true economy.

### Publication of Official Notices.

Tenders for the publication of the lists, convictions by justices of the peace and other legal and official advertisements, the whole expense of which is payable by counties, shall be publicly advertised for by the council of the county, subject to such conditions, if any, as to circulation and other matters as the council may think just, and the contract shall be given to the newspaper making the lowest tender on or subject to the said conditions, if any there be. Revised Statutes, Chap. 18, Sec. 3.

### High School Act of 1891.

The following are the most important changes in the High School system made by the act passed at last session of the legislature. Chap. 57, 54th Vic.:

Section 8. Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor, a county council may open a High School in any municipality containing not fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, or an incorporated village containing fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, provided adjoining municipalities pass by-laws for uniting with such village so as to constitute a district of not fewer than 3,000 inhabitants.

Sections 11 and 12 provide among other things for the appointment of trustees by the county and district municipalities in districts consisting of one or more municipalities, and limits the number of the city board to eighteen, with other special representatives as are authorized by the Act. These are, in the case of all boards, a representative of local, public and separate school boards respectively, and in the case of cities and towns separated from the county, three additional trustees appointed by the county councils for such High Schools as are open to county pupils on the same terms as are High Schools in the municipalities not separated from the county.

Section 31. The distinguishing feature of the act is its equitable provision for the support of the High Schools by those who derive benefit therefrom. Heretofore an amount equivalent to the legislative grant was, in many cases insufficient to defray the cost of county pupils, and no provision was made in the case of towns and cities separate from counties, where the proportionate cost of the maintenance of county pupils at any High School exceeds or is alleged to exceed the amount of money granted by the county council under the preceding section, and of the fees received for county pupils, the county would be liable for a further sum in the proportion as nearly as may be, which the average attendance of county pupils enrolled in such High School during the preceding three years, bears to the average attendance of county pupils enrolled at the same school for the same period of three years. In the case of new High Schools, the period herein mentioned for which the average attendance is to be reckoned shall be the number of years for which such school was opened not exceeding three years.

Where the trustees of any High School situated in a city or in a town separated from the county, notify the county clerk that such school is open to county pupils on the same terms as High Schools in the municipality not separated from the county. The county council shall in all such cases pay the proportionate cost of the maintenance of county pupils, at such High Schools, subject to the provisions of the said act.

Shall the amount due by the county not be determined by mutual agreement by the county council and trustees of the High School, the act constitutes the county judge the referee in the dispute, and any award made by him is binding, or three years.

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