

C. H. R.—Our council wish me to submit the following question to THE MUNICIPAL WORLD and to ask if you will kindly give your views on the matter in your September issue: "A" has purchased town lots 8, 10, 12 and 14, and 7, 9, 11 and 13, in block K, north of Tuscarora street, in the town of Walkerville. The balance of said block K is the property of the public school board and a \$1,000 brick school house is erected thereon. "A" has petitioned the council to close up that portion of an alley running north from Tuscarora street to the said school property lying between said lots 8, 10, 12 and 14 on the one side, and said lots 7, 9, 11 and 13 on the other, as being no longer necessary or required by the town. If there is no opposition to the passing of the by-law, have the council a legal right to close the portion of the alley prayed for? Should any one or more of the trustees or a ratepayer object, will that prevent the town council passing the by-law?

We assume your council has observed the preliminary formalities laid down in sec. 546 of the Con. Mun. Act, 1892. Subject to the provisions of secs. 542, 543 and 544 of the said act, we think your council has the right to pass a by-law closing the alley in question whether any of the parties interested object to such a proceeding or not, if they (the council) deem it advisable or expedient to do so. If any party interested sustains damage in consequence of the passing of the by-law, such party is entitled to compensation. You did not state whether the school board had been utilizing the alley for the purpose of bringing wood and other supplies to their premises or for any other purpose. If not, we do not see how the board would sustain any injury by the closing of the portion of the alley, as their premises can be reached from either Tuscarora, First, or Second streets, which bound the same on the north, west and east, respectively.

SUBSCRIBER—There is a joint stock cheese company in the township. The assessor did not assess it last spring as it had not been assessed before, and no other factory in this section of country. A person appealed to the county judge to have it assessed, which was done. According to section 366 of the Municipal Act, has the council power to exempt said factory from assessment and the different rates of taxation for a term of ten years? If so, does the by-law require to be different from the ordinary, or should it be an agreement or contract between the company and municipal council? Please advise in your next issue, and oblige.

We see no reason why the joint stock cheese company should not be exempted from taxation for a term of ten years by a by-law of the council passed in accordance with the provisions of sec. 366 of the Con. Mun. Act, 1892, provided other companies of the same kind in the township are similarly exempted. See Mr. Harrison's note (a) to said sec. 366, and also sec. 286 of said Act.

REEVE, Denbigh (Lennox and Addington)—We are requested to open a government road allowance running between two lots owned and occupied by two settlers. It is fenced and has been for years, as a lane or road for cattle. It leads from the traveled road into the woods, though for the last few years it is not used for cattle, and one of the parties keeps up a brush fence and bars across it at the back end. This allowance is now required to let a back settler in and out. Now to open and make this road have we to advertise and go through the routine laid down in Revised Statutes, page 1952, section 546, or do we simply

act on sec. 552? There has been no road made in lieu of this allowance, and it seems a hardship on municipal councils if they must go to the expense, delay, and trouble of opening up a road in this position through the obstinacy of one man.

If the road allowance is an original road allowance, and location thereof is known, we think it unnecessary that the formalities prescribed in sec. 546, Con. Mun. Act, 1892, should be observed, a by-law accurately describing the limits of the road allowance providing for the opening of the same, should be passed by the council after the notice mentioned in sec. 553 has been served upon the party or parties in possession.

TREASURER.—Years ago our town council instructed its treasurer to deposit all municipal moneys in a local banking house. 1. Was a resolution sufficient, or is a by-law necessary. 2. As the present treasurer is acting under that resolution, would he, his sureties, or the municipality be the loser in the event of loss being sustained through the insolvency of the banking house?

1. We consider the resolution of council sufficient to warrant the treasurer in making the deposit mentioned, a by-law not being necessary.

2. The present treasurer is qualified in acting under the resolution referred to as it remains in force until duly rescinded.

3. Should the local banking house fail and any loss of the moneys of the municipality be thereby sustained, neither the treasurer nor his sureties would, under the circumstances, be responsible. See sec. 250, Con. Mun. Act, 1892. Sub-Sec. 1 (particularly the latter part) and Mr. Harrison's note (a) to said sub-section.

#### Voted it Down.

By a standing vote of thirty-eight to seven the county council of Simcoe voted down a proposition to erect an industrial home in that county; but from the numerous indigent people from that district, who come into this county, and make application to enter the York county home, we are forced to the conclusion that an institution of the kind is very much needed in the sister county.—*Ex.*

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The Lambton county council, at the June session, passed a by-law providing that county pupils attending the high schools in the county shall pay a fee of \$1 per month. This is an important change, and will aid considerably in lessening the high school rate. The by-law will go into effect at the beginning of the next term.

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It may not be generally known that Central Bank bills are no longer negotiable. The final dividend was decided recently and all the books of the institution stored away in the vaults at Osgoode Hall, Toronto. There is, therefore, no more assets to redeem any bills that may be in circulation.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

This paper is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but so that the publishers will know from whom they are received.

### Forestry.

To the Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD:

SIR,—It is high time that the people of this province and more especially the farming community were aroused to the necessity of taking steps to discourage the needless and wasteful cutting down of the timber. Notwithstanding all that has been said and written on this subject, the destructive process has been but little abated, and strange to say the class whose interests are most directly imperilled, the farmers, are probably the chief agents in this wholesale devastation. Now farmers are generally credited with having a keen eye to their own financial interests, but certainly this characteristic is not manifested to any great extent in the management of the wooden portion of their lands.

Every intelligent observer ought by this time to be aware of the evils entailed by deforestation. Now the too extensive clearance of the timber robs the fields of a needed protection against parching or freezing winds, besides altering the climate, so that droughts and floods are much more frequent and destructive than formerly. The literature of forestry has been popularized so that all ought to be familiar with such facts. Nevertheless we find that the area of forest in our own settled countries is steadily growing smaller. In some localities the proportion of bush to cleared land is not more than five per cent., and comparatively little is being done to restore the equilibrium by replanting. Wood is growing scarce, so much so that farmers who once owned bush lots which, if properly managed, might have been the source of a continual supply, are obliged to secure fuel at a considerable distance from their homesteads.

If the farmers would only show, in managing their affairs, something of the same foresight and careful regard for future interests as the business man is obliged to exercise in order to avoid bankruptcy, they would take time by the forelock and not merely carefully preserve such patches and remnants of the original forests as they still possess, but set out trees in appropriate situations with an eye to the shelter afforded as well as the value of the timber. A farm provided with wind breaks and adorned with ornamental trees around the buildings and along the highway presents a much more inviting aspect than one devoid of trees, and will sell for a higher figure if placed on the market. Moreover, it is as absolutely certain as any future event can be that wood will considerably increase in value in the near future, and if valuable varieties of trees are planted the result will be an investment which, in the long run, will be found exceedingly profitable.