

# Municipal Officers of Ontario.

## Clerk, County of Dufferin.

Mr. Reid was born in the County of York in 1840, and when 8 years of age removed with his family to the township of East Garafraxa. He attended a public school as soon as one was established in the township, and completed his education at the Weston high school. He then engaged in teaching, first in school section No. 6 in his own township, and afterwards in the high and public schools of Orangeville. He was appointed Clerk of the County of Dufferin in 1880, and fills the position very acceptably.

## Clerk, Township of Innisfil.

Mr. Palling was born in Gloucestershire, Eng., in 1833, and came to Canada when 18 years of age. He taught school two years in Medonte, but removed back to Innisfil, was appointed township clerk in 1875, and in 1883 was appointed township treasurer, and at present holds both of these positions in one of the best governed townships in the Dominion.

## Clerk, Township of Sarnia.

Miss Lowery was born in Sarnia township, where she received her education at the public and high schools, and in 1882 engaged in teaching. For many years she assisted her father, who was township clerk, and when her brother was appointed to succeed him, in 1890, she did all of the office work, and in 1896 was appointed by the council to the office of clerk. Miss Lowery is one of three ladies who are at present occupying the position of municipal clerk in Ontario.

## Clerk, Village of Vienna.

Capt. Watts was born in North Walsham, Norfolk, England, in 1838, and came to Canada in 1851 with his parents and settled near Vienna, where he has resided ever since. During the "Mason & Slidel" excitement in 1860 he joined the volunteers, and was at the front as a lieutenant during the Fenian raid in 1866. He was afterwards gazetted captain of his Company No. 2 of the 25th Elgin Battalion, which position he held until his retirement in 1883. He was appointed clerk and treasurer of the Village of Vienna in 1888, which position he still holds.

## Clerk, Township of Kinloss.

Mr. Reid was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1819, and for a short time attended a parish school. He served his apprenticeship as a tailor there and came

to Canada in 1841. He worked at his trade for some time and finally located on a wild bush lot in 1854, where he still resides. He was appointed township clerk in 1856, is still in office, and has never missed a meeting during his whole term of office. He and his partner in life celebrated their diamond wedding in January last, surrounded by representatives of the family for four generations.

## Clerk, Township of Kenyon.

Mr. Cameron was born in the township of Kenyon in the year 1869. He was educated at the public school and Ontario Business College at Belleville, and was appointed township clerk in 1895.

## Clark and Scully's Drainage Cases.

This work contains reports of decisions of the referees appointed for the purpose of the drainage laws and the Court of Appeal for Ontario in cases where the referee's decisions have been appealed from, as well as of some other important decisions of the courts relative to the Drainage laws, the Municipal Drainage Act and Ditches and Water Courses Acts annotated with the names of the cases bearing upon them. It is a useful book for lawyers and drainage engineers, and a copy should be in the office of the clerk of every council interested in drainage by-laws and assessments. The price is five dollars. Orders may be sent to this office.

In a recent issue of *The Canadian Statesman*, a correspondent discusses the worrying of sheep by dogs, and suggests the following remedy:

"Let our council pass a by-law that dog owners shall tie up or confine their dogs, say from 6.30 p. m. to 5 o'clock a. m., during sheep-killing season, which lasts about three months, commencing about 1st September. To facilitate the carrying out of this plan let the pathmasters, or other persons agreed upon, be empowered to report any man on his beat who does not comply with the law, and let a suitable penalty be imposed. In return for this trouble given to dog owners let there be no tax on dogs, or else let the tax be in proportion to that on other live stock. As a dog-tax is levied to pay sheep damages, and as such a law would prevent most, if not all, of these damages, such a heavy tax would not be required. The tax as now levied is very unjust. It is probable that most of the sheep killed are killed by a very few dogs in proportion to the number kept, so that as a consequence a majority of owners pay out each year a large amount of money for sheep damages for which they are not really responsible.

In referring to the Municipal Manual on opposite page, the name of the author should be Mr. C. R. W. Biggar, who is not a "Beggar" as the misplaced type would indicate.

## County Constabulary.

The murder of Policeman Toohey, at London, emphasizes what has often been urged on the Government—the reorganization of the county constabulary. The men of that force, as at present constituted, are paid by fees. There is no provision for the following up of the criminal. That is now being done by the city police, and it must be said to their credit, that the county police are joining heartily in the hue and cry. But there is no money for them to be paid their expenses out of.—*London News*.

If some scheme were proposed for the reorganization of the county constabulary that would prevent the squandering of the people's money it would meet with public favor. It does seem a hardship that county constables should be expected to go to the expense of hiring conveyances, pay board bills, etc., when on duty in search of a desperado, and unless they make an arrest, get nothing to reimburse them for their outlay. Constabulary Associations have made some recommendations, but they have not been considered feasible. In the case of this desperate character we think there is not the first chance of any reasonable bill for expenses and services being refused by the Government, if the counties refuse to pay. It is reasonable that all legitimate expenses in such cases should be paid without question. It certainly is in the interests of society in general that such characters should be hunted down at once.

"Local option" is usually used in reference to the excise question, but Leonard Tuttle, in the September issue of *Municipal Affairs*, maintains that we should have "Local Option in Taxation." He shows that the present system is severely unjust, that personal property escapes taxation except in rare instances where it cannot escape, or when the owner is too scrupulously honest to evade the law, and that inequalities are rampant. A scheme is proposed whereby cities and counties should determine, within certain bounds, what kind of property should be taxed, which would remove the evils of the present system. The plan is rather novel, but Mr. Tuttle supports it thoroughly with fact and argument.

Before our next issue we expect to mail our complete Souvenir Catalogue for 1898-9. We would direct special attention to some of our stationary specialties. The county council election supplies are now being sent out, and our stock of municipal election forms is complete in every respect.

We find that a great difference of opinion exists in reference to the effect of the act of the Legislature of January, 1898, changing the system of electing councils in towns under 5,000 and townships divided into wards. The opinion advanced by some, that candidates may be nominated for each ward to be elected by a general vote would seem to be right if all townships were so divided. The intention of the act was, we believe, to nominate and elect these councillors and reeves by general vote as representatives of the whole municipality, the same as reeves.