

NEW MUNICIPAL ACT.

The new Municipal Laws are comprised in two chapters, numbered fifty-one and fifty-two of the Acts of last session of Parliament. With regard to towns, the qualification of electors is changed from twenty dollars of annual to four hundred of actual value, freehold or leasehold, or partly each; and that of Councillors from freehold of eighty dollars, or leasehold of one hundred and sixty dollars of annual, to freehold of eight hundred or leasehold of sixteen hundred dollars of actual value of real or equitable estate, as shown by the last revised assessment roll. Each town elects a Mayor, who is to be the head of the Corporation; and where not separated from the county, a Reeve; and if it have the names of five hundred freeholders and householders on the last revised assessment roll, then a Deputy Reeve is to be added; and for every five hundred names of persons possessing the same property qualifications as voters on such roll, an additional Deputy Reeve.—The number of Councillors for towns having five or more wards, is fixed at two for each ward; but those having fewer wards than five, will have to reconcile sub-section three of section 66 as amended by cap. 52, with section 88 of cap. 51. The former says: "The Council of *every* town shall consist of the Mayor, who shall be the head thereof, and of two Councillors for every ward," besides a Reeve and a Deputy or Deputies as before; while the latter says, "in towns having less than five wards there shall be three Councillors elected for each ward, on the first Monday in January one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, one of whom shall retire annually in rotation: and on the first Monday in January in each year thereafter, there shall be one Councillor elected for each ward in all towns."

The mode of election henceforth is to be as follows: A meeting of the electors is to be held at the Town Hall on the last Monday but one in the month of December before the election, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, for the nomination of Mayor, Reeve and Deputy Reeve; and on the same day at noon, in each ward, for the nomination of Councillors. If at these nominations only the requisite number of candidates to fill the vacant seats are proposed within one hour, the elections are then and there determined; but if a greater number is proposed, a poll is to be opened in each ward or in the ward in which a contest may have arisen, at nine o'clock in the forenoon of the first Monday in January, and to be closed at five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, when, if the ward is not divided into electoral divisions, the Returning Officer is forthwith to declare the result of the election; but if divided the respective Returning officers are to transmit their poll-books to the Town Clerk, who is to add them up and declare the result. In the cases of Mayor, Reeve and Deputy Reeve, the poll-books are in any event to be sent to the Town Clerk on the day following the election, and he is as soon as possible after their receipt to add up the votes and publicly declare the result on the day following the return of the poll-books.

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