

# THE MUNICIPAL WORLD

Published Monthly in the Interests of Every Department of our Municipal System—the Best in the World

VOL. 2.

ST. THOMAS, NOVEMBER, 1892.

NO. 11.

## The Municipal World.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE  
SINGLE COPY 10c.

Address all communications to

K. W. McKAY, EDITOR,  
Box 749, St. Thomas, Ont.

Communications and advertisements for next issue must be in on or before the 20th of this month.

ST. THOMAS, NOVEMBER 1, 1892.

Every municipal council should endeavor to have its financial business completed as near as possible during the present month. The Act requires a meeting of the council to be held on the 15th day of December for the purpose of preparing a financial statement for publication, showing a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures for the portion of the year ending on the date of such meeting, together with a statement of the assets, liabilities and uncollected taxes. A similar statement in detail respecting the last fifteen days of the preceding year, 1891, is now required to be attached thereto. Every effort should be made to have this statement show as clearly as possible the financial condition of the municipality. We know that to satisfy individual ambition, particulars that should be included are often kept back, so much so that members of councils have been placed in a very unenviable light when the auditors' report was published and compared with the statement required on the 15th December.

In the majority of municipalities, the candidates for the coming municipal elections have already announced themselves, and very often where the contest is a close one, the candidates make promises that they regret having made after election. No man should aspire to a seat in a municipal council, unless he has the welfare of the municipality at heart, and wishes to see the business thereof conducted strictly in accordance with the principles laid down in the Municipal Act, and, in order to do this, councillors should not be controlled by sectional feeling, or by those who may have taken advantage of election excitement, to secure promises, that, under different circumstances, are found to conflict with the carrying on of the business of the municipality in a straightforward manner.

Nearly all the county councils will meet during the present month, and many resolutions referring to the reduction of the members of the county councils will no doubt be considered. The provincial government, through Mr. Hardy, introduced a bill at last session in reference to the matter, which, on account of the opposition thereto, was withdrawn; we are informed it is to be presented in a different form next session. County councils should, for the information of our legislators, place upon record their opinion by petition, or otherwise, and show whether or not they are in favor of a reduction, and if so, state the most equitable plan for carrying out the proposed reform. In this issue will be found particulars relating to election of county councillors both in the United States and England, together with other information that may be of assistance in suggesting ideas as to the best means of effecting the reduction, and still leave the county council as representative as at present.

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of annual report of the department of agriculture, Ontario, 1891, and also report of fish and game commission. The latter is a work of art, and shows that the gentlemen who composed the commission have left nothing to be desired in the way of information concerning matters brought under their special consideration.

From information received, we believe that sub-section 22 of section 569 Consolidated Municipal Act, permits of great injustice being done by the withdrawal of names from petitions required before drainage works can be undertaken. As this section is at present, any one who has signed a petition is at liberty to withdraw therefrom and abandon the same at any time before the expiring of the time limited for appeal from the proposed assessment to the court of revision, and, if on account of such withdrawal, the work cannot be proceeded with, all of the persons who signed the petition, including those who withdrew their names, are liable *pro rata* to the municipality for the expense incurred in connection with the petition. We think this subsection should be amended so that no one could withdraw his name from a petition on which the council have taken action, without permission from the council, and such withdrawal should at no time be consented to unless the party or parties

withdrawing pay all of the expenses that have been incurred by the municipality in carrying out the prayer of the petition.

*The York Recorder* has been disputing the authority of the county council to grant street railroad franchises over the roads within the township, without first securing the consent of the township council. For years the county council has exercised full and undisputed control over the York roads, and has granted franchises to several electric railway companies, and it is now said that they had no right to grant these franchises, but that the right to grant such are vested in the townships, cities and towns through which the roads runs, and not in the county. *The Recorder*, in support of its contention, has published a complete history of the roads, with extracts from all orders in council statutes, etc., effecting them, and even if legislation should be indulged in to interpret the various documents published, we consider that the local municipalities, through which the railroads run, and who are more particularly interested, have the right to grant the franchises and make such arrangements as they may deem necessary in connection therewith, subject to the approval of any other corporation or company which may have obtained rights in the premises by purchase or otherwise.

The county council of Bruce will submit the question of the erection of a House of Industry for decision of the ratepayers at the municipal elections. A special committee, appointed at the June session, have issued their report on the subject, showing that \$11,500 had been paid throughout the county in three years for relief of the poor; that in counties where Houses of Industry have been in operation for some years, the ratepayers are well satisfied, and would not return to the old system, and that the average cost per week for maintenance of inmates in different institutions in the province is \$1.10 per week.

### A Gigantic Almanac.

There is a wonderful almanac coming out in Canada, nearly four hundred pages, with colored maps, to be known as the *Star Almanac*, and to be published by the publishers of the *Montreal Daily and Weekly Star*. It is to be ready shortly. So much has it been admired that the publishers have received security for the publication of fifty thousand copies.