

Model City Government.

Under a recent charter a new plan of responsible government was introduced into the city of Cleveland. The council was reduced in numbers and devoted by statute to legislative functions, but the mayor, who was required to execute the laws, was provided with a cabinet of six members to assist him. These ministers, as they may be called, are heads of the six departments into which the executive business of the city is divided, viz.: Public Works, Law, Accounts, Police, Fire and Charities. The director of public works has charge of all street improvements, street cleaning, waterworks, sewers, bridges and parks; the director of law is corporation counsel; the director of accounts is comptroller; the director of police has the management of the police force and health office; the director of fire manages the fire department; and the director of charities has charge of the workhouse, infirmary, hospitals and cemeteries. In these six directors and the mayor is vested all the power before divided between thirteen boards of from three to five members each. The mayor is paid \$6,000, the director of law \$5,000, and each of the other directors \$4,000 a year salary. Now, the first result of the new system, which came into operation twelve months ago, was the awakening of the public to the importance of the mayoralty. The office had become one of great responsibility, and a good man had to be chosen for it. A good choice was made; and the mayor, also appreciating his responsibility, selected with great care the best possible officers to act under him as advisers and departmental heads. The first year of this new system of municipal government closed a few days ago, and the results are such as may well lead other cities to wish to follow in the footsteps of Cleveland. The expenditure has been greatly reduced while the effective work done has been enormously increased, which of course means that a large amount remains in the pockets of the citizens, which under ordinary circumstances would have been withdrawn from them.

Interesting Items from Council Proceedings Throughout the Province.

At the last session of the Middlesex county council a motion by Messrs. Gibb and Douglas was carried to have the council petition the provincial legislature to reduce the number of county councillors by dropping all deputy-reeves and giving the reeves of each municipality a vote for every \$200,000 or any fractional part thereof; and that the clerk forward copies of the petition to all county clerks in Ontario, with a request to have the matter laid before the council. The question of having two police magistrates appointed for the county, as provided for in an act passed at last session of the Legis-

lature, was laid over until next meeting of the council.

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The county council of Grey has appointed a committee to consider reduction of number of members of county councils. The question of establishing a House of Industry for this county was voted down at last session of the council. After a lengthy discussion, it was shown that over \$29,000 had been spent during the last ten years by local municipalities for support of indigents, and that there were thirty-nine persons in the county eligible for admission if the House was erected.

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The county council of Bruce has decided that all taxes for county purposes be raised on land values, with the exception of five per cent. on personalty.

A Doubtful Plan.

A resolution in favor of having the law changed, so as to cut down the number of members of county councils to one from each minor municipality, but allowing a representative to vote for each one hundred ratepayers he represents, was introduced at last session of the Ontario county council. The editor of the *Whitby Chronicle* expressed our opinion when he states that the great difficulty about passing measures effecting representation either in parliament or the county council, is that the county and township lines, as arranged many years ago, are in the way. Every little county and municipality wants to preserve its name and representation, and if this must continue there is no way but for large counties and municipalities to split up and have more than one member each. No reform in this connection will be permanent until all county and township lines are blotted out, and districts arranged on a basis of population, both for councils and parliaments.

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St. Thomas city council have decided to make the taxes payable on Oct. 1st., and on all general taxes paid from that date to the 20th October a discount of two per cent. will be allowed; on all taxes paid after Oct. 20th and before December 20th, no discount is to be allowed, but the full value demanded, and on all taxes not paid on or before December 20th, five per cent. is to be added.

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The council of Owen Sound have passed a by-law in reference to the use of bicycles on sidewalks. The *Times* says: The by-law provides that no one shall ride a bicycle on the sidewalks of Poulett street between Union street and Division; no bicycle on any sidewalk shall be driven at a faster rate than five miles per hour; bicyclists overtaking pedestrians must warn them of their approach, and must turn out to the left hand side; a bicyclist falling to attract the attention of a pedes-

train when overtaking one, shall dismount and wheel his bicycle past.

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A special committee appointed by the Kingston board of health have reported, recommending changes necessary to improve the sanitary condition of the county gaol and court house. A copy of the report has been sent to Dr. Chamberlain, inspector of prisons, and unless the county council attend to the matter the government will no doubt be requested to take action towards enforcing the necessary work. County councils are sometimes very backward in making improvements around the county buildings, but we think there should be no excuse for leaving them in an unsanitary condition, especially when located in cities where water supply and connection with sewers is easily obtained. We know of some instances in which the government has taken action in matters of this kind, and councils in nearly every instance resented the interference with what they considered their own business. Whether they were right in so doing we are not in a position to say, but while county councillors are elected for a term of one year only, new committees will generally have charge of the county property every year, with the result that the ideas of many men who have no special information are to be seen in connection with the repairs and improvements made in and around many of our public buildings, especially those of counties. If, instead of making improvements in this way, committees were to have comprehensive plans made by a professional man who thoroughly understands the work to be undertaken, considerable benefit would be derived therefrom. Although the work might not be completed in one year, new committees would know exactly what was proposed by their predecessors, and when completed the work would be very much more in the interests of municipalities than when done in accordance with the views of the members of different committees appointed from year to year.

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Judge Rose told a Coburg jury that he thought it would be wise to withdraw the maintenance of some of the public buildings from the county councils and place them in the hands of commissioners appointed by the provincial government to be responsible for the proper application of the moneys. These remarks were called forth by the insanitary condition of the county buildings, which have duplicates in many parts of the province.

The *Municipal Miscellany*, lately published by Mr. George E. Neilson, at Arnprior, has now merged into THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, issued from St. Thomas, Ont. It is spicy and neat in its literary and mechanical execution.—[*Renfrew Journal*.