

### The Election of County Councillors

The election of County Councillors under the act of 1896 is a question that requires a good deal of consideration by the officers authorized to carry out its provisions. A careful reading of the Act and the practical application of many of its enactments shows that more is required than is specifically referred to.

#### NOMINATING OFFICERS AND NOMINATIONS.

The first duty of the County authorities is the appointment of a nominating officer for each of the districts into which the Counties have been divided. This appointment is required to be made by the Warden on or before the 15th November, and in the event of the Warden failing to make such appointment within 24 hours after the time specified, the County Clerk is required to do so. Municipal Clerks by reason of their previous experience at nomination meetings and elections should receive the preference. A correspondent in the present issue raises the question as to whether the clerk can legally act as nominating officer, and we have no hesitation in saying that there is no objection to their accepting the office.

County council nominations are to be held on Monday, the 21st December, between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The nominating officer is required to fix the place within the division for holding the nomination. This need not be in the most central part of the district, but should be the most convenient and accessible to the great body of electors of the district. Notices of the nomination meeting and of the election are required to be given by two insertions of an advertisement in each of two weekly newspapers published in the county prior to the nomination day, or by giving sufficient public notice thereof by printed posters. Where the latter form of notice is adopted, care should be taken to give proper publicity, and to insure this we cannot recommend anything better than to follow the instructions to returning officers in provincial elections, which are: To post the proclamation up at the town hall or other public place where the meetings of the council are held, and at every post office in the district, and at least at one public place in every polling sub-division.

The proceedings at the nomination meeting are the same as the clerk of the local municipality is required to perform as returning officer at the nomination for an election in a local municipality. If not more than two candidates are nominated, they are to be declared elected by acclamation, and the return accordingly made to the County Clerk. If more candidates are nominated than are required to be elected, the nominating officer shall, immediately after the lapse of the time in which candidate may withdraw, being either at the nomination meeting or during the following day, certify the fact

and the names and addresses of those remaining in nomination to the County Clerk. For the purpose of securing uniformity the nominating officers should be supplied by the County Clerk, with a form on which to make these returns of election by acclamation or nominations received. The nominating officers duties are ended when this return is properly made, except that when at an election two candidates receive the same number of votes, and it is necessary to determine which one or two should be elected. The nominating officer for the division is required upon request of the County Clerk, to declare in writing for which of such candidates he votes, and in such case the candidate or candidates for which he votes shall be elected. This places the nominating officer in the same position as returning officers for municipal elections, and nominating officers, in our opinion, should not vote for members of the County Council to be elected for his district. The expenses incurred by the nominating officer in and about the election, are required to be paid by the County. These may include the expense of advertising, of posting notices of nomination, rent of hall for the meeting and for the services of nominating officer. The County Clerk should furnish forms upon which these accounts may be made out.

#### ELECTION.

When an election is required to be held in a district, the County Clerk is required to prepare the ballots, and before doing so he should receive from the Municipal Clerk of each municipality in his county, a list showing the number of polling subdivisions and the number of votes in each. The ballots should be put up in pads containing the number for each sub-division. These are required to be forwarded with other necessary election papers to the clerk of each local municipality in the divisions where the elections for County Councillors are to be held. The form of ballots, notices and other papers are to be the same as nearly as possible as those provided for by the Consolidated Municipal Act of 1892, and where not wholly applicable, are to be adapted by the clerk for the election of county councillors.

The words "other necessary election papers" in our opinion should include ballot paper, account, statement of votes, envelopes to contain county council ballots, similar to those provided for municipal elections, but to have words "election of County Council" printed thereon.

Where all members of the local council are elected by acclamation, the council of such municipality, and the clerk shall take all proceedings which would have been necessary, and as by-law is provided, that is to say, provide polling places, furnish the necessary and proper Voters-Lists, Poll Books, and appoint deputy returning officers and other necessary officers, and such officers so appointed shall have all the powers, rights and authorities respecting the election of county council-

lors, as they now have respecting the election of members of the local municipalities. The expense of the election and of the officers so appointed are to be borne by the county. In case of any dispute between the local municipality and the county for the payment of any such expense, the difference between them is required to be settled by the County Judge, upon the application of either party.

On the day following the receipt of the election returns, the clerk of each municipality is required to prepare and mail to the County clerk by registered letter, a certificate under his hand as to the result of the voting in his municipality for the candidates for the County Council, in the form given in the Act, and to secure uniformity, these should be printed and supplied by the county clerk.

The county clerk is required at one o'clock on the afternoon of the second Monday in the month of January, after receiving the returns of the local municipalities, to publicly declare elected the two candidates having the highest number of votes in each county council district, and also to post up in his office a statement under his hand, showing the number of votes polled for each candidate. Nominating officers, as has been above referred to, are required to break a tie, upon the request of the county clerk.

#### A Woman's Town.

In Kansas there is a small town, Gaylord, which is entirely out of debt, whose streets are smooth and clean, sidewalks mended, public works in good order, and citizens happy. This is the result of an administration by women.

It is the only town in the world where petticoat government is supreme, for at the last election the town returned to office a ticket composed entirely of women, the votes received by Antoinette L. Haskell, the candidate for Mayor, being more than double those received by her masculine opponent. Mrs. Haskell has presided at the Council meetings for a year, and displays a knowledge of city affairs that would be a credit to a man. Her appointments have proved to be excellent, and the town is content with her rule. Her husband is a prominent banker and land owner. Politically she is a democrat.

Miss Florence Healey, the City Clerk, entered her father's printing office when she was seventeen, beginning as an apprentice, and has worked her way up till now she is the city editor of the *Gaylord Herald*. She is twenty years old.

Mrs. Mary L. Foote, the Police Judge elect, is an Illinois woman, and is a very prominent worker in the Woman's Relief Corps, as well as a woman highly esteemed by the community. An odd feature about her election is that she was running in opposition to her husband, and defeated him by a large majority. She is forty-five years old.

The Town Council is also made up of women.