

The Municipal World

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ST. THOMAS, JUNE 1, 1900.

Mr. W. R. Fellows, of Blenheim, who for many years was clerk of the township of Harwich, is dead, aged over 80.

* * *

Mr. Joseph Boulanger, of Plantagenet, has been appointed treasurer of the united counties of Prescott and Russell, to succeed Mr. John Fraser, deceased.

* * *

A public meeting of the ratepayers of the township of Enniskillen was held in the township hall on the 7th of April last, for the purpose of considering and discussing the abolition of statute labor in the township. Considerable interest was taken in the meeting, and it was attended by a large number of the ratepayers. In the result the meeting expressed itself largely in favor of the present system.

* * *

In our issue for May last, clause 6 of Question No. 226, G. G. A. (page 75), was a misprint. It should have read as follows: "6. Where assessment is made between 15th February and 30th April in a town municipality, is it consistent with The Assessment Act and The Municipal Act for the council to have the taxes payable half-yearly or quarterly? Can half-yearly or quarterly payment of taxes be legally accomplished in any way? If so, how?"

* * *

After forty-three years of active and faithful service, Mr. Peter Reid has resigned the clerkship of Kintore. He is now in his eightieth year, and during forty-three years has not missed a council meeting. It is said Mr. Reid was the oldest clerk in Canada. Mr. Geo. Moffatt, past reeve of the township, a gentleman well qualified for the position, has been made clerk in Mr. Reid's stead. The council presented Mr. Reid with an address conveying the kindest sentiments. — *St. Marys Argus.*

The Good Roads Question.

It seems to us that the mistake which county councillors make, in dealing with the good roads question' is that they do not take the people of the county into their confidence and trust them sufficiently. If, as councillors maintain, it would pay Oxford to buy up the toll-roads and institute a county system under competent supervision, why not go boldly to the people with a scheme, discuss it with them in every municipality, and carry it as they did in more progressive Hastings twenty-five years ago? We believe that the people are far more independent and progressive than they are sometimes given credit for. A clean-cut scheme of road reform ought to carry in this and every other county of the province. If you are right trust the people. If you are wrong go about the bush, or keep away from them. Those who advocate good roads are right. Public discussion will sustain their views. — *Woodstock Sentinel Review.*

Tossing for a Vice-Chairman.

The first meeting of the newly-elected Holywell Urban District Council broke up in confusion in consequence of a remarkable dispute over the election of a vice-chairman. The chairman was elected with unanimity, but there were two candidates for vice chair, Mr. Lambert and Mr. Waterhouse, who received five votes each. The chairman having "equal respect for both gentlemen," declined to give a casting vote, and another appeal was made to the council, but with the same result. Mr. Williams then rose and stated that he was the only member who had not voted. He had just tossed up a coin—head for Lambert and tail for Waterhouse, and the latter had won, so he would vote for Mr. Waterhouse. A number of members entered their objection to this novel method of voting, including the chairman, who doubted its legality; but the clerk said the council had nothing to do with the means by which a member arrived at the choice of person for whom he would vote. Mr. Lambert also stated he would withdraw his name entirely, as it had come to a matter of pitch and toss; and Mr. Waterhouse also withdrew for the same reason, although the chairman had declared him duly elected as the result of Mr. Williams's toss-up. Then followed an unseemly debate, in which personalities were indulged in, with the result that the chairman threatened to resign the chair at once. Ultimately, as the council could not come to decision as to who should be vice chairman, the chairman intimated that the meeting stood adjourned, and the meeting broke up in disorder. — *London.*

Mr. H. Elliott, sr., of Hampton, who has been treasurer of the township of Darlington for upwards of forty-seven years, on account of advanced age and failing health, has resigned his office, and his son, Mr. H. Elliott, jr., has been appointed in his place.

A Drainage Outlet.

At the non-jury sittings of the High Court of Justice, held at St. Thomas, recently, before His Lordship Chief Justice Armour, the case of John R. Watson against the township of Dunwich was disposed of. The plaintiff asked for a perpetual injunction restraining the township from going on with the work under by-law number 559 of the township, providing for the cleaning out and improvement of government drain number one, north, upon the grounds that the engineer's report did not provide a sufficient outlet. A large number of witnesses (including the members of the Alborough and Dunwich councils) had been subpoenaed. The case was one of considerable interest to municipalities, as the exact point in dispute had not heretofore been determined in any reported case. Council for the township at the commencement of the case took the objection that the action was prematurely brought in, that the statute provided a remedy in case of damages, and consequently the common law right for an injunction was inappropriate, and that the plaintiff should seek his remedy under the statute if any injury resulted from the construction of the drainage work. His Lordship gave effect to the objection and dismissed the action with costs as of a successful demurrer.

Civic Pride and Progress.

Civic pride should be encouraged to the limit of our ability,

An investment of will and work in that direction is sure to yield a good dividend.

A feeling in favor of progress is indispensable to the attainments of those things which every wide-awake municipality should have.

Intelligent recognition of our wants first, then aggressive application of the means necessary to gain the necessities as well as some of the luxuries of advanced civic government.

The advancement of a general movement along the line of progress can scarcely be over-estimated. It is essential that all classes should co-operate in the work pressing upon us. Avoidance of sectionalism is imperatively necessary; while of broadly constructed agitation for the betterment of public properties and public institutions the town can scarcely experience too much.

Success comes to municipalities as it comes to individuals. We must work for it. Where civic pride is pronounced obstacles give way before aggressive action.

Beginning of the End.

"You can cook, I suppose?" queried the young man, who was feeling his way to a proposal.

"No," was the frank reply, "I never even attempted it. My parents never thought I would have to seek a position as cook."