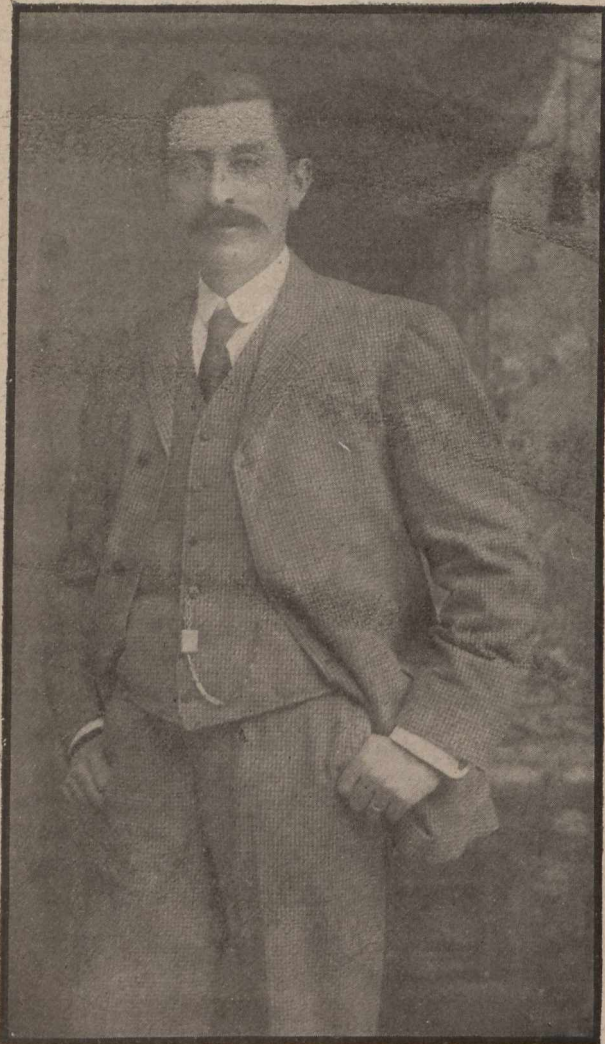


(Municipal Officers of Ontario)

J. LEWIS THOMAS, C.E.
LONDON AND ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO.

The above photograph is that of Mr. J. LEWIS THOMAS, Civil Engineer and Architect, of London and St. Thomas. In addition to a rapidly increasing and flourishing architectural practice, Mr. THOMAS is also making big strides in the Engineering profession. He has prominently identified himself with the much-talked-of water question in London, Ont., and is a staunch supporter and advocate of "filtration," and goes further, by vigorously pushing for a gravity scheme in preference to a pumping one. It is noteworthy that his ideas are gaining converts rapidly. He is also Engineer for several townships, notably: Stephen, Hay, McGillivray, Bayham, etc. Though a comparatively new addition to the professional circle in Canada, having received his training in England, Mr. THOMAS has come to the front in quick time in this country. He is a man essentially of "development" ideas and believes in a great future before Western Ontario, being a strong supporter of any movement whereby increased means of transit are concerned. He says increased means of transit means increased development, increased population and increased prosperity. He also thinks Western Ontario possesses certain mineral wealth yet unfound.

Plattsville held its civic holiday on August 19th. A commendable feature of the occasion was the devoting of the financial proceeds of the day's sports towards the instalment of a street lighting system in the village.

CITY OR TOWN CLERK?

A few days ago a note appeared in the *Liverpool Post* column which raised the interesting question, "Why is the Liverpool town clerk still known by that title when all his fellow-officials are known by titles—city treasurer, city engineer, and so on—which take cognizance of the fact that the municipality which they serve is a city?"

The same question was raised with regard to the retention of the old name of the town hall, although the descriptive title of the administrative body of corporation has been changed from town council to city council. For the subjoined interesting communication the *Post* is indebted to a correspondent whose knowledge of municipal law and usage entitles his opinion to be regarded as authoritative:

"The chief reason is that a town clerk is a statutory officer. He is appointed, not because the council desires to have one, but because the statute requires that every borough and city shall have a town clerk, and town clerk is the statutory title of his office. He is not known by any other official title in the statutes, whether he acts in a borough or city, and it is as town clerk that numerous Acts of Parliament direct his duties.

"It would not, therefore, be competent for any council, whether town council or city council, to alter his title. Town clerks themselves, far from complaining of any apparent incongruity in their title, rather rejoice in it, because reference to the Acts of the Apostles shows that the office as well as the title existed from the earliest times.

"In fact, there is no public officer, whether mayor, sheriff, or any other, whose office can be traced so far back without a break under the same title as that of town clerk. Therefore, tradition as well as the statutes, supports the continued use of the name."

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