

### Selection of Jurors.

The mayor, reeve, the city, town, village or township clerk, and the treasurer or treasurers, if there be more than one of the respective towns, villages or townships in Ontario, are *ex officio* the selectors of jurors for every township and village, and for each ward of every such city or town. They are required to assemble annually on the 10th day of October, or if that day be a Sunday or a statutory holiday, then on the first day thereafter not being such holiday, at the place where the meetings of the council of the municipality are usually held, or at such other place within the municipality as may, for that purpose, be appointed by the head of such municipal corporation, or during his absence or the vacancy of the office, by the clerk thereof, for the purpose of selecting from the Assessment Rolls of such city, town, village or township, the names of persons qualified and liable to serve as jurors.

Before entering upon the performance of their duties, the selectors are required to make and subscribe an oath or affirmation as follows:—"I, A. B., do swear (or affirm, as the case may be), that I will truly, faithfully and impartially, without fear, favor or affection and to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duty of a selector of jurors, and will select from the proper lists the requisite number of the most fit and proper persons to serve as jurors for the year of our Lord 18 ; So help me God.

Sworn, or affirmed, before me at  
the day of 18 .  
(Signed) C. D., (Signed) A. B.  
J. P.

This may be made before any justice of the peace having jurisdiction in the municipality. The manner of the selection is as follows:—First, to write down on one or more sheets of paper twice as many names of persons appearing by the voters list or assessment roll to be possessed of the requisite property qualifications or otherwise duly qualified to serve on juries, as have been required by the county selectors to be selected and returned from the township, village or wards of the municipality. The clerk is required to produce for the information of the selectors the proper voters list and assessment roll. In selecting the names for the list mentioned, the selectors are required to proceed from letter to letter in alphabetical order, and write down the names consecutively of all those persons qualified to serve on juries and not exempt by law, and at each subsequent annual meeting the selectors shall begin at the letter next to that at which they left off the preceding year, and so on until they have gone through all the letters of the alphabet, and when they again begin with the letter A. When the selectors have obtained the names of a sufficient number

of duly qualified persons before they have exhausted the entire number of those qualified in any one letter, they are required at the next annual selection to commence at the beginning of such letter, but shall not select from the names of any persons that were written down and selected from, and returned the preceding year. The selectors shall select from the list at least two-thirds of the persons whose names they have so written down who, in their opinion, are best qualified to serve on juries and shall place a number opposite each name of the said two-third so selected, and shall then prepare a set of ballots of uniform and convenient size, and such ballot shall be numbered to correspond with the numbers opposite the names of the two-thirds selected, and the selectors shall then proceed to ballot for jurors until the number required for every such municipality by the county selectors has been selected.

The manner of balloting is to place all the ballots in a box, which shall be then shaken so as to mix the ballots, and for one of the selectors to openly draw from the said box indiscriminately one of the ballots, and declare the number of such ballot, whereupon the clerk or one of the selectors present shall immediately declare the name of the person opposite whose name the corresponding number is on the list, and the name and addition of the person whose name is so selected shall be written down on a piece of paper provided for that purpose, and the selectors are required to continue until the necessary number has been completed. After having made such selection by ballot, the selectors shall distribute the names of the persons so balloted into four divisions, the first to consist of persons to serve as grand jurors in high court, the second of persons to serve as grand jurors in the inferior courts, the third of persons to serve as petit jurors in high court, and the fourth of persons to serve as petit jurors in the inferior courts, and shall make such distribution according to the best of their judgment.

The selectors are then required to make a duplicate report, under their hands and seal, of their selection, ballot and distribution, which report is required to be in the form of schedule A of the Jurors Act. One of the reports shall, on or before the 25th day of October, be deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county in which the municipality lies, and the other duplicate with the clerk of the municipality. The clerk of the municipality is required to keep a book and enter the dates of the meetings of such selectors of the municipality, the persons present thereat, and the letters of the alphabet from which the selections of names of persons are, from year to year, made, and when the names in any one letter have not been exhausted in any one year, the clerk shall enter in such book the names and additions of all such persons whose names be-

gin with the last mentioned letters that were written down and selected from and returned during the then current year.

For making the selection and distribution of jurors, the selectors are entitled to such sum of money as is authorized by the council of the municipality of which they are officers, and upon receipt of the certificate from the clerk of the peace that the report has been returned to him, as required by law, such sum shall be paid to the selectors by the treasurer of the municipality and in such manner as the municipal council directs.

### Organization of County Constables.

The organization of the county constable force should receive the attention of every county council. Under the present law, county constables are appointed by the magistrates at the court of general sessions of the peace; interim appointments are made by the chairman, the county judge. The appointment of high constables and lockup keepers is also made in this way. County councils have no authority to appoint these last mentioned officers, but have the authority to fix their salaries. We believe that a uniform system for the organization of the county constable force in each county is advisable. The high constable should, in all cases, be the chief officer, and should receive a salary in proportion to the duties he is required to perform. These should be defined by the body from which he receives his appointment. If some systematic organization is introduced, a larger number of good men could be induced to accept the office of county constable, and the services of all those who are unfit for the position dispensed with. In return for any small expenditure, a county council might have to pay towards the organization and maintenance of the force. Hand cuffs, which cost considerable in counties where they are furnished to the constables, could be properly looked after and distributed. By having a better class of men on the force, the councils would not require to pay as many accounts for services in trivial cases which many constables work up for their own benefit. One of the duties of the high constable would be to inspect all the lockups and recommend and certify to repairs necessary, and when the services of constables are required in important matters, the high constable, as head of the organization, would know who are the best men to take charge of the matter. Under the present system the ends of justice are often defeated by placing important cases in the hands of incompetent men. We believe that in every county, in which a police magistrate or magistrates are appointed, the organization of the constables will be found to be very inefficient and bring the necessity of improvement in this direction very plainly before the authorities.