

municipalities that the rate required by the by-law would during the last four or five years of the term raise a sufficient sum to wipe out the debt altogether, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that some councils have thought it unnecessary to keep piling up the sinking fund. We refer more particularly to by-laws passed some years ago under former statutes, because later amendments provide for changing the rate so as to raise only the amount actually necessary to provide the sinking fund. Auditors of municipal accounts have in discharge of their duties found that the sinking fund as required by law to be on hand, was not on hand, and have frequently reported that fact. The Legislature at last session took very effective steps to put a stop to the system of using the sinking fund for any purpose whatever other than to meet the debt when due. The council may invest in certain securities laid down in the Act, but must not divert it to other uses. There was no specific penalty, however, attached heretofore in the case of using such monies for other corporation purposes and, as we said before, very many councillors finding the money in the treasury thought proper to use it instead of borrowing money to meet other expenditures. They looked upon this money as if it could be used for general purposes, and thus applied it. In a certain sense the ratepayer was not injured by this misappropriation of the sinking fund, as the rates for other purposes were thereby reduced, but the holders of debentures had an interest in this fund, and their rights under the law must be respected. They relied on the security of the cash on hand, as well as on the taxable property of the municipality to meet the debentures, and in this way had an increased security for their investment. By an amendment last session the following sub-sections have been added to section 373 of the Municipal Act, and councillors will in future have to be very careful how they deal with the sinking funds:—

(2) Provided always that any moneys levied and collected for the purpose of a sinking fund shall not in any case be applied towards paying any portion of the current or other expenditures of the municipality, save as may be otherwise authorized by this or any other Act.

(3) In the event of the council of any municipality diverting any of said monies for such current or any other expenditure, save as aforesaid, the members who vote for the diverting of said moneys shall be personally liable for the amount so diverted, and said amount may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction; and the members who may have voted for the same shall be disqualified for holding any municipal office for a period of two years.

#### AS OTHERS SEE US.

These are busy days with municipal clerks, and along with that it is the heated term when even the iron bound editor gets too warm to work after hours. Therefore to fill a gap in this paper this month without too much mental effort we take the liberty of copying the following extracts from a few of the scores of similar letters received during the past three months. We do this also as some justification for what might appear our temerity—or perhaps what some who declined to take our paper would term “check”—in undertaking such a publication. Knowing that the MISCELLANY has many well-wishers who would like to know how we are succeeding in our circulation, we may mention

that our most sanguine expectations have been exceeded in that respect. We had figured the matter up, and thought that it was quite possible to get a circulation of about five hundred, which would be necessary to make it a paying concern. Some of our respected friends and advisers thought that we would not get half that number. Whereas we have already a circulation of what we consider good *bona fide* subscribers to the number of eight hundred. These are scattered throughout every county and district in the province from the Ottawa river to Rat Portage, and new subscribers are still coming in, fully one-half of our readers being municipal clerks and councillors residing west of Toronto. Even the city clerks in a majority of cases have not considered it beneath their dignity to help along this new enterprise in the journalistic line by becoming subscribers, and one of the oldest, most experienced, and widest known of these, lately said of the MISCELLANY when speaking to a gentleman from Arnprior: “You are from Arnprior, why I get a little paper from there called THE MUNICIPAL MISCELLANY, and it is as good as gold.” This was too generous, but a little taffy always goes down better than a dose of salts, and as our Arnprior friend vouched for his sincerity, and a further proof was that the aforesaid city clerk sent us along with his own subscription an additional one from the county treasurer, we must at least feel grateful to him though we may not share his golden opinions of the merits of THE MISCELLANY. Our only wish is that we were better able to “fill the bill” in a manner that would satisfy ourselves. Correspondence on municipal matters would be welcome, and surely in the army of municipal officials there must be many who could assist to make the paper more interesting and useful. Information is one of the few possessions a man may freely give without being any poorer for the giving.

T. P. C., Winthrop:—“I think THE MISCELLANY will be a great help in municipal transactions.”

D. K., Brampton:—“Dear Sir,—With this I enclose you \$1 for THE MUNICIPAL MISCELLANY. Trusting your effort will be successful,” etc.

J. J., Bobcaygeon, wrote in May, when enclosing \$5 for six copies for self and council. “Glad you have taken up the subject in a paper like THE MISCELLANY.”

W. D., Rosseau:—“Dear Sir,—The municipal council of the township have instructed me to order THE MISCELLANY for 1891, for which I enclose \$1.”

Alex. S., Desboro, says of THE MISCELLANY when giving the names of persons he wished sample copies sent to:—“Undoubtedly a boon to many municipal officers.”

D. C., Hanover, when enclosing \$1 for MISCELLANY, wrote:—“Don’t miss your monthly calendar; it is invaluable, and is alone worth double the subscription price.”

J. McC., Guelph:—“Sir,—THE MUNICIPAL MISCELLANY to hand. I think if it continues as commenced it will be a great benefit to municipal officers. Enclosed is \$1 for subscription for 1891. I gave the January and February numbers away for perusal. Would you kindly send these numbers, as I wish to keep them for reference. With best wishes for your success.”

“As a number of clerks and others have given the period of their incumbency, I might also say that my father was appointed clerk of Guelph township in Nov., 1858, and held that office until his death in Nov., 1858.”