

## Municipal Matters

the shack. Council also rented the section house at La Salle as court of revision for several years.<sup>4</sup>

All along, Council conscientiously carried out its responsibilities as set out in the Municipal Act of 1881 (as ammended periodically). Efficient operation of a municipality meant overseeing many tasks. Minute books are filled with various transactions regarding taxes, providing an intimate look into how people were able to make payments. Farmers were encouraged to *work off* their taxes by doing work on road allowances fronting their property. Entries like the following appear frequently: "That the Councillor for Ward two be authorized to auction off the cutting of the brush road between Sec 25 Tp. 8 R 1E and Sec 30. 8. 2E, Sec 24 and 25. 8. 1E on Saturday the 8th of June at 6 o'clock pm."<sup>5</sup> Despite this indication that all was fair, inferences were made that favoritism for friends and relatives took place and irate letters on the subject from ratepayers appeared in early newspapers.

Councils survived most criticisms and continued to assist the ratepayers in managing their affairs. In 1889 minutes state Council would provide seed grain to owners of land or livestock.<sup>6</sup> The purpose of this program was to enable municipalities to advance money to farmers so they could purchase seed grain. In the early years the government

Schedule A—(Seed Grain Note)

Rural Municipality of Woodenatal April 2nd  
A. D. 190 / 1901 \$ 40.75  
On the First day of October A. D. 190 / 1901 I promise to pay  
to the Rural Municipality of Woodenatal the sum of \$  
Forty Dollars, with  
interest at 7 per cent. per annum until paid, Value Received.  
This note is given for seed grain supplied to me by the said Municipality, upon the express understanding  
that I shall use the said grain for seeding purposes on the N.W. 1/4 of section  
36, township 8, range 2 West  
in the said municipality.  
Wm Allinson  
Starbuck

—The Allinson family

A seed grain note of 1901 in the Allinson collection at Starbuck, showing that William Allinson paid back the loan in July of 1903.

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