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TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

The New System Under Which Townships will be Operated

(House Bill No. 66)

A BILL

For an act to provide for township organization, to divide counties under township organization into supervisor districts, to define the rights, powers and liabilities of towns, the duties and compensation of the officers thereof, and to provide for the election of town officers, and for the election of supervisors and the term of office of the supervisors to be elected and chosen in the several supervisor districts into which the county is to be divided when governed by township organization, introduced by E. C. Burns of Dodge county.

January 8, 1895, read first time and ordered to second reading; January 9, 1895, read second time and referred to the committee on County Seats, County Boundaries and Township Organizations.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska:

SEC. 1. At any general election that may be held in the several counties in the state, the qualified voters in any county may vote for or against township organization in such county.

SEC. 2. The county commissioners, on petition of fifty or more legal voters of the county, shall cause to be submitted to the voters of the county the question of township organization under this act, by ballot, to be written or printed, or partly written or partly printed thereon, "for township organization," or "against township organization, the votes to be counted, canvassed, and returned in like manner as votes for county officers.

SEC. 3. If it shall appear by the returns of said election that a majority of the legal voters of such county voting at such election are for township organization, then the county so voting for its adoption shall be governed by and subject to the provisions of this act, on and after the meeting of the supervisors of the county as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 4. On the second Tuesday after such election adopting township organization in any county the county commissioners of the county shall meet at the county seat of such county and shall forthwith, and within not more than three days from and after the first day of meeting, divide such county into five districts; such districts to be divided as near as possible with regular boundary lines and in regular and compact form and shape, and each district shall be as near as possible have the same number of inhabitants as any other district; but no township shall be divided by any such district; provided that in counties having cities of over one thousand inhabitants, and more inhabitants than the average outlying districts, the county commissioners shall add enough contiguous territory to such city so that the inhabitants in such city and contiguous territory shall equal the inhabitants of two of the other districts, and when so divided such district in which such city is located shall elect two supervisors, to be elected at large within such district: Provided further that if a county is divided with such a city district then and in such event the balance of the territory shall only be divided into three districts, and such city district shall receive a double number as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 5. When the county has been divided as in the preceding section provided, the county commissioners shall at once, upon such division, proceed to number such districts from one to five and they shall, in case of a city district as contemplated in the preceding section, give such city district two numbers, one odd and one even number.

SEC. 6. In the event any city having one thousand inhabitants or more shall have enough inhabitants to form one supervisor district then such city shall constitute one district, or in case the number of inhabitants is less than the number in the other districts then so much contiguous territory shall be added to such city to give it sufficient inhabitants for one supervisor district. Villages may be enumerated with general districts, counting all the inhabitants therein

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as being within the district wherein such town or village is situated.

SEC. 7. The county commissioners of any such county having adopted township organization shall each be assigned to the supervisor district in which he may reside, or if two reside in one district then the one residing nearest the center of such district shall be the supervisor of such district and the other shall be the supervisor for the district nearest to his residence, and the three shall forthwith, appoint two supervisors to fill the vacancies in the other two supervisors' districts, and the newly appointed supervisors shall duly qualify and file their oath of office and bond with the county judge within ten days after such appointment. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the remaining supervisors.

SEC. 8. After the county commissioners shall have divided the county into districts and shall have appointed supervisors for the district vacancies and shall have transacted the other necessary county business, they shall adjourn to the second Tuesday in December following the election adopting township organization, at which time they shall meet, and the newly appointed supervisors shall, after their bonds are duly approved, meet with them, and they shall at once organize by electing one of the five supervisors as chairman, who shall appoint all the necessary committees, and from and after such meeting and organization the powers of the commissioners shall cease and the board so organized shall have all the powers and perform all and singular the duties performed by county boards as contemplated by law.

SEC. 9. When the board of supervisors shall have been organized as stated in the preceding sections they shall at once divide the county into townships by making such townships conform as near as practicable to townships according to government survey. When county lines are not in accordance with government townships, so as to cause fractional townships, such fractions may be annexed to an adjoining township, when the number of inhabitants or the amount of territory in such fractions shall not be sufficient for a separate township.

When any government township shall have too few inhabitants for a separate organization, then such township may also be added to an adjoining township, or the same may be divided between two or more townships for the time being, and when creeks or rivers so divide government townships so as to make it inconvenient for transacting town business, then such creek or river may be made the boundary line and the fractions formed, if any, may be disposed of as other fractional townships heretofore mentioned.

SEC. 10. The board of supervisors shall also at the meeting mentioned in the preceding section designate the name of each township, and may change the name of any town at any other meeting of such board upon a petition of a majority of the voters of such town.

SEC. 11. The county clerk shall record in a book kept for that purpose the names and boundaries of each town as designated by the county board, and shall forthwith forward an abstract thereof to the auditor of public accounts of this state, who shall make a record of the same.

SEC. 12. The board of supervisors shall also at the meeting at which they shall fix and name the several townships, appoint for each township some suitable person, being an elector within the township, as justice of the peace, and also for each township some suitable person, being an elector within the township, as assessor, which person so appointed, shall on or before the January meeting following, take the oath of office and file a bond, as provided by Section 19 of Chapter 10, entitled: Bonds and Oaths Official; and which bond shall be approved by the board as provided by law. In case such person, or any one of them, shall neglect or refuse to qualify, the county board shall at such January meeting appoint another or others, as the case may be, who shall qualify as above stated, and such persons so appointed shall hold such office until their successor shall be duly elected and qualified as provided by law.

SEC. 13. The county clerk shall also on or before the third Tuesday in December following the adoption of township organization, appoint for

each township some suitable person, being an elector within the township for which he is appointed, as town clerk. Such person so appointed shall on or before the first Tuesday in January next ensuing take the oath of office and give bond as provided by the section and chapter referred to in the preceding section, and the county board shall approve such bond at their January meeting or shall meet and approve all bonds given to fill vacancies provided for in this and the preceding section before the first day of April next ensuing. In the event the person appointed shall fail or refuse to qualify by the time named above, the county clerk shall name some other person possessing the qualifications mentioned in this section. The person so appointed and qualified shall hold their office until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

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Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

Crooked Creek

Mr. Harris lost a valuable cow last week.

Chas. Tennant was on the sick list last week.

Some of the farmers around here have gone to planting corn.

Mr. Copland was attending court last week.

Mr. Harris was hauling hay from Red Cloud Saturday.

Emmett Tennant supports a new harness.

Ed Dickson was helping Clarence Jones move Saturday.

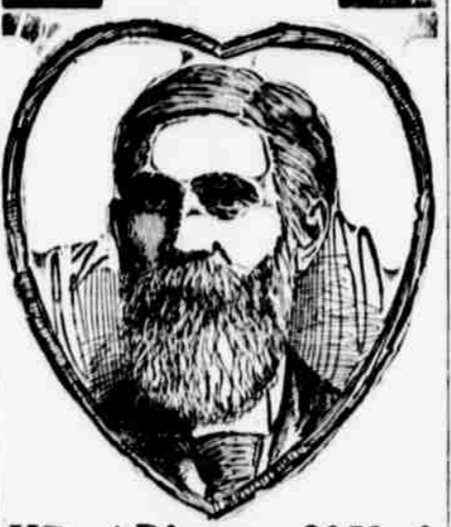
Miss Hunter and Mrs. Tennant were visiting at Mr. Wallin's Saturday.

Henry Harris called at Mr. Gurney's Sunday.

Mr. Fare is working for Mr. Holsworking this season.

Emmett Tennant is building a new buggy shed.

A certain man who does not live a thousand miles from here came home the other night with a little to much bug juice.



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