

THE COURIER.

NEW SCHOOL LAWS,

Enacted by the Late Territorial Legislature.

Section 23. School townships may be organized in any country whether townships are organized for civil purposes or not. But when organized both as school townships and civil townships the boundaries and name shall be the same for both purposes. Where civil townships are now organized the school townships may be also organized with the same boundaries and name. Both may be organized at the same time, or either first and the other afterwards. This act, except wherein otherwise specifically declared, shall apply to and govern school townships only when organized as distinct municipal corporations for school purposes, as declared in section 2 of this act. When organized as school townships they shall be known in law and in all transactions whatever under the proper name and style of each as a school township as, — school township of — county, Territory of Dakota.

Sec. 24. The board of county commissioners of each county shall, before the first day of June, 1885, proceed to divide the county into school townships (except when already divided into civil townships) fix and determine the boundaries thereof, and number the same, and in so doing shall have regard for natural boundaries, but the number of school townships shall not exceed the number of congressional townships or fractional parts thereof greater than one half, in any county. The board of county commissioners shall, in the performance of their duty, call to their aid and counsel the county superintendent of common schools, and, if a different person, may call before them also the predecessor of that officer for his or her testimony or advice, and may hear any citizens who are interested or who are well informed of the topography and settlement of the county. And the county superintendent shall prepare and present before them a carefully prepared map of the county which shall show the boundary of all school districts and other school corporations in the county, the location of all rivers, lakes and marshes or other topography that would effect school travel, the location of all railroads built or under construction, and of all cities, towns and villages; and shall carefully locate thereon every school house of the value of one hundred dollars or more.

Sec. 25. After carefully weighing all these facts, and having regard thereto, the board shall so divide the county into school townships as will best subserve and promote the permanent interests and welfare of the public schools in the whole county, so that not less than four primary schools may be in one school township when settled, and so that the township shall have when settled sufficient area and population and number of schools to furnish opportunity of choice between schools and to support a more advanced graded school from the patrons of all. To secure these ends they may include as many as four congressional townships or fractions thereof in one school township. The board of commissioners may change the boundaries of these school townships the same as is now provided by law for changing the boundaries of civil townships; and a change of boundary for one purpose changes it also for the other, and the boundaries and limits as well as the name shall be and remain the same for school purposes, and for civil and political purposes.

Sec. 26. The school townships so formed and bounded shall be known by the number given to each by the county board until a name is adopted, and at the first township meeting the electors of each school township shall choose by ballot a name for their respective township to be substituted in lieu of the number fixed by the county board, which shall be recognized by such board and entered upon their records, after which such township shall be known and designated in law and all business by the name so selected; and should the electors of any school township fail to choose a name as provided, the county board shall select one, and so record it, and notify the school township.

Sec. 29. All civil townships now organized shall become townships by the election and qualification of the officers thereof as hereinafter provided but before they are so organized, and before the first day of June, 1885, the board of county commissioners of the county in which they are organized shall carefully reconsider the boundaries, area and situation thereof, in all respects as provided herein for dividing a county into school townships, and shall, so far as necessary, change and rearrange the boundaries thereof so as to render the townships suitable and convenient for school purposes as well as for civil purposes, and they may, to this end, discontinue and consolidate townships and otherwise suitably rearrange and fix anew their boundaries and limits. If any township be discontinued the county clerk shall report the fact and the name thereof to the auditor.

Sec. 30. The officers of every school township shall be a director, clerk and treasurer, who shall be qualified electors of the county and residents of the township, and shall each be elected to serve for the term of three years and until his successor is elected and qualified, except in the organization of school townships they shall be elected for parts of such term and so that the term of the first treasurer shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1884 or 1887, or in terms of three years thereafter, and the term of the first clerk shall expire on the 30th day of June 1885 or 1888, or in terms of three years thereafter, and the term of the first director shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1886 or 1889, or in terms of three years thereafter, in order that the terms of all officers of each kind in the territory shall expire in the same year and one of the three officers shall retire, one being chosen annually.

Sec. 31. An election shall be held in every school township upon the Tuesday before the last Saturday in June in the year 1884, and each year thereafter, at which such officers shall be elected as are

by law to be chosen, and such other questions may be voted upon at such election as may be submitted in pursuance of law. There shall be but one poll in each school township for such election as the director and treasurer thereof with one other person, being an elector, chosen by the electors present at the opening of the poll, shall act as judges of election, and the school township clerk and the clerk of the civil township shall act as clerks of election, and if there be no civil township clerk, or if any of the judges or clerks be absent or fail to act, such qualified electors of the township as may be present at the place of voting shall fill the vacancies by vote upon motion then made, and the persons so chosen, being qualified electors of the township, shall serve. The officers of the township shall serve under their oath of office, and one of them shall administer the oath required by law to the persons so chosen to act as judges or clerks. In the absence of all such officers the oath to one or more of the judges shall be administered by some person authorized by law to administer oaths, and the oath to the other judges and the clerks may be administered by a judge so sworn. The polls shall close at four o'clock p. m., and the ballots shall be immediately counted and the votes canvassed. The elections shall be held and conducted in the manner prescribed by the statutes of the territory providing for and governing general elections, except as in this act provided, and the votes shall be canvassed as provided by general law, and the results shall be certified and returned both to the clerk of the school township and to the county clerk, and to the clerk of the school township the ballot box and ballots shall be returned. The certified returns to the county clerk must be upon one of the regular poll books.

Sec. 32. The first election held in any school township already organized as a civil township shall be held by the officers of the civil township as provided by law for elections in civil townships, and the officers thereof shall make the returns as provided in that law, and the clerk of the civil township shall immediately transmit to each person elected a certificate of his election. In school townships not organized as civil townships the county officers shall give the notices of election and appoint the election officers for each poll, the same as required by the general election law, and the sheriff shall serve the papers and with the county clerk do all other duties and make all provisions for the election as provided for general elections. The returns shall be made as above required to the county clerk, and the other returns shall be made to the school township clerk after his qualification, and the election board shall in each case immediately make and transmit to the person having the highest number of votes for each office, naming it, signed by at least two judges and one clerk of election.

Sec. 33. In all elections after the first in school townships the school clerk shall within three days after the canvass of the votes as hereinbefore provided, sign and transmit to each person elected to any office in the school township a certificate of his election to the office, naming it fully. In the first election the school clerk shall, immediately after he qualifies, certify to the county clerk the name chosen for the township.

General Passenger Agent Barnes, of the Northern Pacific, is arranging for better emigrant rates from Chicago to North Dakota.

It begins to look as though Fargo is at last going to meet the demands upon her hotel accommodations by the erection of a fine \$100,000 caravansary.

An English inventor has patented a process for rendering straw incombustible, and proposes to build cheap straw cottages for the poor. He ought to unite his patent with that of the American who manufactures lumber from straw, and we should then have fireproof wooden buildings.

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Geographical Centre

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