

in 1778. Hence, the population in 1818, confined to the southern half of the state, was mainly of Southern origin; and Southern influences controlled all political affairs and moulded the institutions. Thus the local institutions of the South were left as a heritage to Wisconsin, in common with Michigan, when severed from Illinois. In 1820, a law of Michigan Territory made it the duty of the governor to appoint for each county three commissioners, with the usual powers over local matters. The confirmation of this system in a Territory whose inhabitants were then mostly of northern birth, was probably due to the sparse settlement, which would have made the town organization impracticable. This law remained in force until 1827; but it was provided, in 1825, that the commissioners should be elected by the people of the county.

In 1822, the *borough* of Prairie du Chien was incorporated. There were to be elected a warden and two burgesses, corresponding to the president and trustees of our villages. The organization and powers of Prairie du Chien "borough" were essentially the same as those of villages in Wisconsin and other states. With the exception of Green Bay in 1838, this is the only instance of the use of the term "borough" in Wisconsin. These early laws were copied from the codes of Eastern states, and the one for the incorporation of Prairie du Chien was taken from the statutes of Connecticut and Ohio.¹ Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut are the only states that have "boroughs."² And the name as applied here, doubtless came from the Connecticut laws. "The borough," says the annalist of Prairie du Chien,³ "passed and repealed by-laws for about three years and stopped business in 1825."

It was the influence of Governor Cass, who, born and bred in New Hampshire, was thoroughly imbued with New England ideas of local government, that led congress in 1827 to establish the New York system in Michigan Territory. The county-commissioner system was abolished, and towns

¹ *Laws of Michigan Territory*, i., p. 236.

² *Johns Hopkins University Studies*, No. 4, Fourth series, p. 8.

³ *Durrie's Annals of Prairie du Chien*, p. 7.