

were organized. Each town was to elect one supervisor, and the supervisors from all the towns in the county were collectively to form the county board. The towns had the more important business, e. g., control of highways, management of poor-houses, supervision of schools; but town accounts were audited and allowed by the county board.

As far as the present territory of Wisconsin is concerned, this law is of little account. The towns of Green Bay and St. Anthony, which included respectively the villages of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, were then the only settled portions of Wisconsin, and hence the only parts having regular civil government. These towns were specially excepted from this law of 1827, and given a special organization better suited to the scant population. In each were to be elected three supervisors, who were to perform the duties of both town and county supervisors. This was virtually the old system. There appear to have been no towns organized in the present Wisconsin, under this law.

No important changes were made until after the organization of Wisconsin Territory in 1836. The discovery of lead in southwestern Wisconsin, in 1827, brought a large immigration, chiefly from Southern states, into that region during the next decade. Thus, in the new territory, the Southern people of the lead region formed the majority, and in 1837 established the system of county commissioners. This shows the strong sympathies of southwestern Wisconsin with Southern institutions.

In 1836 was passed a general law of village incorporation, and in 1838 towns were organized for judicial and police purposes, and given some minor power in regard to roads.

The Black Hawk expedition of 1832 had reported a rich farming region on the western shore of Lake Michigan. The land was purchased from the Indians, and an immense immigration immediately took place from New England and New York. This new element soon overbalanced the population of the lead region. A demand arose for the restoration of the more democratic form of local government, and in 1841 Northern influences and ideas once more triumphed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "An act to provide for the government of the several towns in this Territory and for the revision of county government" (1841).