

Accordingly, the New York system, substantially what we now have, was adopted, and the southwestern counties were obliged to re-organize on this plan.

Doubtless these would have retained the old system for many years but for the provision in the constitution requiring uniformity. The lead region must then have contained a large element, perhaps a majority, of citizens bred under Northern influences; but other causes than sectional prejudice or tradition were operating in favor of Southern methods of local government. It was urged, in numerous petitions to the legislature, that the system of three county commissioners involved less expense than that in which the governing body consisted of as many individuals as there were towns in the county. These petitions came from all portions of the state.

Section 22, article IV., of the constitution reads, in part, "The legislature may confer upon the boards of supervisors of the several counties" certain powers, thus implying that the "uniform" system established by the legislature should be the supervisor system. This term and that of commissioner had come to have definite and distinct meanings; and were in common usage, in legal signification, and in the intent of the framers of the constitution, not interchangeable. The one, by general and legal usage, designated the system of New York, in which the county board consists of supervisors from the towns; by the other was understood the system of commissioners chosen for the entire county. The bill presented to the legislature provided that the "county board of supervisors should consist of three electors," one to be elected in each of the three districts in which the county was to be divided. But in those counties that contained three or more assembly districts a supervisor was to be elected in each assembly district, and one additional supervisor for the county at large where there was an even number of assembly districts. This arrangement was made with the purpose of making the number of supervisors proportionate to the population of the respective counties; and, in consequence, to the amount of business in regard to roads, schools, taxes, etc., to be transacted in each. Each county