

local municipalities in a county could decide on the abolition of the districts and the formation of county councils composed of reeves and mayors, with voting power on financial questions in proportion to equalized assessment of the municipality represented. Before any county had adopted this, there was a change of government, and a return, in 1907, to the original system of councils composed of reeves and deputy reeves, the number of deputy reeves being reduced by providing that one should be elected for each thousand voters instead of five hundred, as formerly.

Township Councils.—Township councils, as originally constituted, consisted of five members, elected annually, by general vote or by wards, the reeve and deputy reeve, if any, being chosen by the council. This system continued until the Act of 1866 was passed, providing for the election of reeves, deputy reeves, and councillors by general vote. In 1873 there was a return to the ward system; the reeve, however, continued to be elected by general vote, the deputy reeves being selected by the council for each five hundred names of qualified voters in the township. This system was continued until 1898, when it was provided that the election of reeves and councillors should be by general vote. In 1906, when the county council system was changed, the election in townships in organized counties of not more than three deputy reeves by general vote was authorized, one to be elected for each thousand names of persons on the voters' list qualified to vote at municipal elections.

Village Councils.—Village councils have always been composed of five members. Previous to 1866, the reeves were chosen by the councils. Since that date, the reeves and deputies have been elected as such by general vote.

Town Councils.—The constitution of town councils has been frequently the subject of legislative experiment. Under the Act of 1849, a town council consisted of three councillors from each ward, who, at their first meeting, elected from among themselves the mayor, the reeve, and also (if there were five hundred resident freeholders and householders on the collector's roll) a deputy reeve. By the Act of 1858 the election of the mayor was taken from the council and entrusted to the ratepayers. In 1866 the number of town councillors was reduced to two for each ward in towns having five wards, but was left at three for each ward in towns of less than five wards, and it was provided that but one councillor should retire annually in each ward, the representation of the town in the county council was increased by the addition of a deputy reeve for every five hundred persons appearing on the last revised assessment roll. The right to elect the