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4th Session, 6th Parliament, 24 Victoria, 1861.

BILL.

An Act to amend the Municipal Acts of Upper Canada, by providing that the Reeves of Townships and Incorporated Villages shall be elected by general vote of the Municipal Electors.

Received and rend first time, Wednesday, 3rd April, 1861.

Second reading, Monday, 8th April, 1861.

Mr. Holmes.

QUEBEC:

PRINTED BY THOMPSON, HUNTER & CO., ST. URSULE STREET. An Act to amend the Municipal Acts of Upper Canada, by providing that the Reeves of Townships and Incorporated Villages shall be elected by general vote of the Municipal Electors.

WHEREAS, the present method of electing Reeves of Townships Preamble. and Incorporated Villages in Upper Canada is unsatisfactory, the general impression being that Reeves so elected, are not as responsible to the Municipality as if elected by general vote of the Municipa 5 Electors, and it is expedient that such impression be removed:

Therefore, Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:-

1. From and after the passing of this Act, the existing divisions of Existing Townships into Wards shall cease, as if abolished by By-law by the Wards of Townships Municipal Council of each Township respectively.

abolished.

2. It shall be lawful for the Municipal Council of any Township or 10 Union of Townships in Upper Canada, if they consider it expedient so to do, at any time before the first day of December in the present year, Township or on or before the first day of December in any subsequent year, by into four by-law to divide their respective Municipality into four Wards, which 15 divisions shall, with regard to population and territory, be as nearly equal as the circumstances of the case will admit.

Township Council may divide the

3. Whenever the Council of any Municipality (except Cities or Notice for Towns,) shall so divide their Municipalities into Wards in accordance Reeve. with the last preceding Section, it shall be the duty of the Clerk of such 20 Municipality, by public notices put up in some public place in each Ward in his Municipality, to give notice that a public meeting will be holden on the last Monday but one in the month of December, for the purpose of nominating a candidate or candidates for the office of Reeve for such Municipality for the ensuing year.

4. A meeting shall take place, where the Council of the Municipality Meeting for 25 held its last meeting (unless such last meeting has been held in a nomination. Tavern, and then as convenient thereto as the circumstances of the case will admit), for the purpose aforesaid of nominating candidates for the Reeveship of such Municipality for the ensuing year; such meeting 30 shall commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and shall not close before noon. The Clerk of the Municipality shall preside at Clerk to presuch meeting, or if absent the Electors present shall choose a Chairman side; his from amongst themselves. Such Clerk or Chairman shall have all the powers of a Returning Officer.

5. If only one qualified candidate shall be proposed within the time If only one before specified by any Elector present at such meeting, the Clerk or candidate. Chairman presiding shall declare such candidate duly elected Reeve for the ensuing year.

If more than one, and a Poll be demanded.

6. If more than one candidate is proposed and seconded by any clectors present, and a Poll be demanded, the Clerk or Chairman shall put up in the Office of such Clerk, the names of the several candidates proposed, and shall also give due notice thereof to every Returning Officer in such Municipality.

5

Duration of Poll.

7. In case of a contest in an election for the Reeveship in any Municipality, the Returning Officer for every Ward shall keep the Poll open for the full time required by law for taking votes, though there may be no contest for the other offices for which he holds the election.

Entry of votes in Poll-book.

S. Every Returning Officer shall enter in his poll-book, in separate 10 columns, the names of the several candidates for the office of Reeve, as well as the names of the several candidates for the office of Councillor, and shall in the column in which is entered the name of a candidate for Reeve, voted by any qualified voter, enter the number 1 opposite the voter's name.

15

Return of Poll-books.

9. Every Returning Officer shall on the day next after the close of the poll, return the poll-book to the clerk of the municipality, verified as to the election of Reeve, as well as in other particulars required by the Act, chapter fifty-four of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada.

- Counting the votes and declaration of Reeve elect.
- 10. The Clerk of the Municipality shall add up the number of votes 20 taken for each candidate for the office of Reeve, in the respective pollbooks so returned, and ascertain the aggregate number of votes so returned for each candidate, and in case a poll has been taken and the poll-books are returned for every ward, the clerk shall, at the place where the nomination had taken place, at noon of the day following the return 25 of said poll-books, declare elected the candidate having the greatest number of votes polled.

Official declaration of Reeve and Councillors.

11. The Reeve elect so declared, shall make and subscribe the necessary declarations of office and qualification on the day appointed for the first meeting of the council, and shall afterwards administer the neces- 30 sary qualifications to the other members of the council.

No other previous business.

12. No other business shall be proceded with at the said meeting, until the said declarations have been administered to all the members present who are willing to take the same.

- If there be a tie between two candidates for Reeve.
- 13. In case two or more candidates for the office of Reeve, have an 35 equal number of votes, the other members of the council shall take the necessary qualification before the clerk, and shall, after doing so, organize themselves as a council, by electing as Reeve one of such candidates, the clerk presiding, who shall have a casting vote in case of equality of votes in such election.

40

Annual election of Reeves.

14. Reeves of townships and incorporated villages, shall be chosen by the electors of such townships and incorporated villages at the annual election to be held on the first Monday in January in each year.

Qualifications.

15. The qualification of Reeve shall be the same as the qualification of Councillors for townships and incorporated villages.

45

- Elections in Townships not divided
- 16. In townships not divided into wards and incorporated villages, the Reeves shall be elected at the annual election on the first Monday

in January in each year, in the following manner: one or more persons into Wards & may be nominated as fit and proper persons to be elected Reeves, as well as four or more persons may be nominated as proper persons to be elected Councillors, and the person nominated Reeve having the great-5 est number of votes polled at the close of the election shall be duly declared Reeve for the current year, as well as the four persons nominated Councillors having the greatest number of votes polled shall be duly declared Councillors for the current year. The Clerk of the Munici- Clerk to prepality presiding at such election.

17. The several sections or part of sections of chapter fifty-four of Inconsistent 10 the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada relative to the election of enactments repealed. Reeves of townships and incorporated villages inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

18. This shall be a Public Act, and apply to Upper Canada only.

Act limited to U.C.