

## **INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DIXON IN 1878**

This research article will provide comprehensive historical information defining the incorporation of the City / Town of Dixon, California. We will learn the context of incorporation, both before and after this event, and the incorporation process itself. We will also take the opportunity to explain a bit of Dixon's early government, its officials, meetings and records.

Materials in this article are presented in the following sections:

- **Precis**
- **Pre-Incorporation Impetus**
- **The Incorporation Process**
- **Incorporation Formalities**
- **Articles of Incorporation (The Original Town Charter)**
- **First Trustee Meetings**
- **Reorganization and Revisions to Original Town Charter**

### **CHRONOLOGY:**

The United States of America was founded on July 4, 1776; "founded" here meaning America declared its independence from England. The Constitution of the United States was ratified on June 21, 1788. California was granted statehood and its boundaries established on September 9, 1850. The boundaries of Solano County were established on February 18, 1850. Silveyville Township, one of 12 original Townships in Solano County, was established on August 12, 1863. Dixon, geographically a part of Silveyville Township, was incorporated, and its boundaries established, on May 27, 1878. The political sequence presented here is important as successive political entities based their Constitutions to a greater or lesser degree on that of their predecessors.

The political sequence presented above represents American answers to fundamental societal problems which if left un-addressed would prevent the development of American life as we know it. Without such organization and rules, Constitutions and Incorporations, base human instincts such as greed, dishonesty, lack of respect for human dignity would prevail and civilized life as we know it would be impossible. America, California, Solano County and Dixon all recognized this fact from the outset and adopted Constitutions, Statutes of Incorporation, and forms of government to guide them in their foundation and day-to-day activities.

Another important date in this article, although not on so grand a scale as that of the US Constitution, is 14 November 1884, the date the Dixon Tribune, Dixon's hometown newspaper, published its first issue. This date is some three and a half years PRIOR to the legal incorporation of Dixon. The founding date of the Dixon Tribune is important for the very practical reason that all the official records of the City / Town of Dixon relating to Dixon's incorporation prior to February 1912 are lost with the Tribune being thus the only source of local incorporation information prior to February 1912.

### RESEARCH METHODS AND SOURCES.

The primary source of historical materials and data for this article is issues of the *Dixon Tribune* of the period from roughly 1875 through 1884. The authors of this article read every word of every existing *Tribune* issue of this period and extracted all information relating to matters of Dixon's incorporation and early government.

Our preliminary method of presenting the story of Dixon's incorporation was to let the *Tribune* data tell the incorporation story on its own merits, without commentary or analysis by the authors; to let the Tribune's words speak for themselves. Every bit of historical information presented here whose origin is the *Dixon Tribune* is presented with its date of publication, and can be sourced and verified by viewing the archived issue at the Dixon Public Library's web portal at

[Dixon Library Archives - Solano County Library  
\(solanolibrary.com\)](http://solanolibrary.com)

We urge the reader to make liberal use of this digital resource as it not only presents the article cited here but will also provide non-incorporation social and political context.

Our full database (1,139 pages) of Tribune issues for the period containing "incorporation" materials can be found at the following link:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aqs-GO6uhK7BisMqqOes1Zc46y6ong?e=VAKV7i>

Our secondary source for research materials was the existing records of the Town/City of Dixon itself. We would have preferred to obtain all materials relative to the incorporation of Dixon directly from these official town documents, however as will be noted at herein, all such official records between Dixon's incorporation in 1878 and February 1912 are lost, leaving us with only the Dixon Tribune as our primary source of information.

Fortunately, the history of Dixon's Incorporation was able, in large part, to be reconstructed from the pages of the weekly issues of the Dixon Tribune which was published continuously throughout the period of incorporation mentioned.

Presented in this section below are articles from the contemporary issues of the Dixon Tribune containing the word “incorporation” or are of a subject matter that in any way might have influenced the citizens of Dixon to eventually incorporate, or not to incorporate. The *Tribune* articles presented below are not only pro-incorporation, but represent dissenting viewpoints as well. The articles are presented in ascending chronological order.

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## Precis

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## Pre-Incorporation Influences

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January 9, 1875

### A DANGEROUS PASTIME

Some of our fast boys-- usually styled "hoodlums," are in the habit of practicing rifle-shooting, in the heart of our Town, to the imminent danger of life.

Sometimes they set up a target and, rifle in hand, blaze away, regardless of who may be in deadly range. A few days ago, at one of these target-shooting tournaments, some of the section men on the railroad, in the town limits, were compelled to leave off work and flee for safety, for the rifle balls whizzed in dangerous proximity to their heads. We believe there is a Statute in force, in this State against the use of arms in populated towns or villages, and our peace officers ought to enforce it. Every day, the sharp crack of a rifle or pistol can be heard on our streets, and the wonder is that our citizens have thus far escaped the flying balls. If it be that there is no law to protect citizens in unincorporated town, why, then, let us incorporate Dixon, in order to protect the lives of its citizens.

September 11, 1875

### WHY NOT INCORPORATE?

We know just where the opposition comes from, whenever a movement is set on foot to make a first-class town of Dixon; is a mud hole to be filled up in the streets; if a sidewalk is, or ought to be laid, or a shade tree planted to adorn and beautify the town, certain parties rise up in opposition. Not, however, when no contribution is asked for. You may fill up mud holes, lay down sidewalks; plant trees; purchase fire engines; build cisterns, troughs, and in short, any individual may do this, without let or hindrance, in front of, or for the benefit of his neighbors property, provided no compensation --No donation is asked for. But just so soon as finances come in question, opposition springs up as if by magic, and the proposed improvement is choked down. So it has hitherto been, when anyone even hinted at the propriety of incorporating the town. We say we know where the opposition, in the main, comes from, and why it comes!

Every citizen can spot the individuals to a man. We need not call them by name. They are chiefly old settlers; have grown rich by the increase in the value of their little investments in lots, houses, mortgages, etc., etc. They number less than a dozen leading spirits, but they are mighty in war, when you touch their pockets. They know that it would be advantageous to the town, as well. As comfortable, to have nice sidewalks, and them nicely flanked with shade trees: It would be nice to, to have water distributed through the town, by boring of artesian wells and laying down pipes, as Woodland has. Gas-lighted streets, stores and dwellings, like other towns have, would be very desirable too. Someone to look after dangerous protruding stovepipes, and defective flus, together with a paid nightwatchman, etc., etc. All these things would please the same individuals as well as other people --for they have a fine sense of the beautiful and comfortable. But all these must come, and they must enjoy them, without costs to their pockets, or not come at all. These are plain facts, and everybody can readily vouch for their truth.

Now then, is it not proper to pause right here, and ask the question: How much longer must the prosperity, growth and comfort of the town and its enterprising citizens continue to be controlled, dictated to and snubbed by these do-less Shylocks? Depend upon it, we cannot hope for water, gas, sidewalks, good streets or any other of the comforts of a town without first incorporating it.

We are thoroughly convinced that fully three fourths of the property owners of the place would favor an inexpensive and economically managed corporate government for the town of Dixon. Then, why not incorporate at once? Suisun and every other town in the State, of equal size, has a corporate existence, and they are not burdened with Corporation taxes. Then, why should Dixon continue to be a lawless straggling village? We pause for a reply! Our columns are open to the

discussion of this important question. We have no real estate in the town, but we desire the prosperity of the place and the comfort of its people. We have an interest in these and we feel assured that the best interests of the town demand its incorporation.

Who will take the initiative in this important matter?

November 06, 1875

### BOARDWALKS AND SIDEWALKS

What little there is left of boardwalks in our town is in a fearfully dilapidated condition. How pleasant it is for instance, just as you are about to step on one end of a board that flies up suddenly and unexpectedly, occasioning a sore shin and a great deal of profanity on your part, while the young lady in gorgeous pin-back, who was the innocent. Because of your misfortune by stepping on the other end of the board, smiles audibly as she passes on. My young friends, I was young once, myself, and I can sympathize with you; I know it is hard to meet a young lady without stumbling over every dry leaf or piece of paper that happens to come in your way; even a fellows hands are so much in the way, that he would stumble over them. If he could get them down low enough; and when to all this, it is evident a loose board that trips you up, and makes you appear most ridiculous, just when you want to look your best, it is excruciating. You nurse your shin and wrath, until you get satisfaction by seeing the trail of a beautiful pin-back caught by a twenty penny nail sticking up two inches out of the sidewalk, and a ragged ribbon, a foot long, torn from it -- You invoke blessings on the owner of that part of the walk.

Everywhere I go, I find that boards have been torn out of the walks, leaving holes that are dangerous, and nails sticking up at every step.

The expense to the different property holders of keeping these walks in good condition would be, but a trifle, if attended to in time. If they will do it, I would recommend that they take up the broken, warped boards --which are of no earthly use, but are only dangerous, altogether.

Speaking of sidewalks, I cannot refrain from giving our main streets a slap, as they are in a most filthy condition. The streets of a country town are necessarily filthy, occasioned by the great number of animals daily crowded along the sides of the main streets in the vicinity of the stores. But here in Dixon, this is aggravated, from the fact that our streets are made the receptacle of all the refuse matter, scraps and garbage from stores, shops, saloons, etc. This mixture of filth is then daily, well watered, which hastens the rotting of it, and fills the air with noisome, death-dealing evaporation's. Occasionally someone makes up a huge pile of wet rags, old horse-collars, beef bones, wet straw, old teeth, hair and manure, and sets fire to it; this is all, for the stench from the smoldering,

simmering piles is insufferable. For a few dollars every week the principal portion of our streets could be raked clean and this refuse matter the carted off.

Another nuisance is the pools of stagnant, stinking, mosquito-breeding water at the Chinese wash houses. Is it any wonder that there is so much sickness in this town during the summer months? Something should be done to abate these terrible nuisances.

November 20, 1875

#### HEALTH, SANITATION AND INCORPORATION.

All other things being equal, new towns are always healthier than old ones. The reason for this is obvious: the newer the place, the cleaner, and as cleanliness is said to be akin to Godliness, so it is akin to helpfulness. Hence the cities having the best natural drainage and the most perfect system of sewerage, are always less prone to contagious diseases and the bills of mortality are lighter than in imperfectly drained and dirty towns.

The reason is obvious: in pure air and impure water combined are the great sources from which come fevers, of all kinds, and it is hardly necessary to say that fevers, all fevers, are more or less infectious, and are dangerous to life. But for fevers, the City of New Orleans would be the healthiest, instead of the most unhealthy city in the United States. New Orleanians can never be a healthy city, because it can never be a thoroughly drained city. It's natural location precludes perfect drainage. On the other hand, Baltimore is one of the healthiest cities in America, simply because it is naturally the best drained city in the world.

No town nor city can be healthy where animal and vegetable matter are allowed to decay and rot in the streets. The air will be rendered impure and unhealthy, while the winter rains first distill the impurities on the surface and then carry them down, down to the level of the water supply, where it is pumped up and use by the inhabitants thus corrupting both the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Take Dixon, for instance, while it is yet new it should be called a healthy place, but every physician knows that the fevers now raging in the town, are the immediate truths of impure air and impure water, and they also know that the bills of mortality must increase as the town grows older, unless a system of sewerage is adopted, and sanitary measures rigidly enforced. The natural drainage of the town is poor; in fact amounts to nothing. Hence the filth and garbage of the streets, backyards, alleys, cesspools, stables, hog pens and poultry yards accumulate year-by-year and are left to rot and decay without let or hindrance. And when the winter rains set in liquefy and distill this mass of corruption and filth. We have no sewers to carry it off, but it is left to sink into the ground, slowly it



may be, but surely, nevertheless, until it reaches the water supply of the town at a depth of 10 or 20 feet, when it is pumped up and we drink down this distilled essence of the streets, cesspools, stables and pick size. It is nauseating to think of the fact! Can we wonder then that fevers prevail and that the rate of mortality is on the increase in Dixon?

Naturally, Dixon is one of the healthiest towns in the State but it is becoming less and less healthy as it grows older, and this must continue to be so, until the citizens adopt a system of sewerage and enforce at least common sanitary measures.

So long as the citizens refuse to incorporate the town — so long as they prefer paying more for curing than for preventing disease, just so long they must be the sufferers. It is serving them right. They ought to pay for their sickness, seeing that they refused to pay for keeping it off. It is hard on the children, however, since they are not responsible for the sickness that their fathers bring upon them, through their niggardly economy.

January 1876

Serious complaints are made against the noisome smell arising from the slaughter house in the northern limits. If the town was incorporated, that nuisance with many others, would be abated.

January 1876

The streets of Dixon are in good condition for mud sledding. Just as our enterprising opponents of Incorporation like to see them.

January 08, 1876

The general health of the community is improving.

#### TO THE CITIZENS OF DIXON.

A meeting will be held at public Hall, on Monday the 17th day of January at 7 1/2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of considering the importance of incorporating the town.

Citizens of Dixon and all others interested are cordially invited to attend.

A. M. Pratt,	A. Kirby
A. Bodley	J. R. Davenport
J. C. North	William Johnson
F. F. Upham	W. S. Hinman
H. B. Sheldon	B. H. Brown
G. H. Evans	D. D. Byrne
J. K. Vansant	Herman Eppinger

A. J. Buckles      C. P. Brown  
K. E. Kelley      Ed. E. Leake  
Peter Smythe

### **LOOKING TO INCORPORATION.**

A call for a citizens meeting, signed by a number of our leading businessmen, will be found on the second page of today's issue. The object of the meeting is stated to be the consideration of the propriety of incorporating the town. Our sentiments upon this question is well known to all our readers. We have persistently advocated the measure as one necessary to the health, comfort, beauty and growth of the place. But there is a strong opposing element to be met, and it remains to be seen whether the old foggy do-nothing element is stronger than the enterprising, go ahead element. For ourself we have no home here to beautify, no regal estate to be taxed by a corporate government. No outside lots to be enhanced in value by Incorporation. But we have property here to be taxed, and for one, we had rather pay \$100 to a tax collector and thereby have pure water, clean streets, nice sidewalks and a nice clean well-regulated "burg" then to pay 1/10 of the sum to a Doctor for curing us of a fever contracted by breathing impure air and drinking water, double distilled, from cesspools and backyard drippings. But since it is a matter of taste, we make no war upon those who prefer paying the Doctor, the Druggist and, the Undertaker, in preference to the Tax Collector.

**Slaughter House . --** Serious complaints are made against the noisome smell arising from the slaughterhouse in the northern limits. If the town was incorporated that nuisance, with many others, would be abated.

**January 15, 1876**

Bakersfield, The present County seat of Kern County, must be on the downgrade, judging from the fact that the County Supervisors have just granted the petition of the citizens to dis- incorporate this town. Besides, there are so many conflicting claimants to the land on which the town is built, that no property is changing hands there of late. Finally, to make the speedy death of the place certain, everybody in the county is signing a petition to the Legislature to remove the county seat to Sumner.

**January 15, 1876**

### **Incorporation.**

This is the street corner topic now, and its many opponents are rearing their heads all over town. In discussing the question, however,

the most extreme views are assumed as literal fact and urged as the inevitable result of incorporation.

It is alleged that the streets are to be categorized or paved with flagstones and that a regular fire department is to be established, water for public use must be introduced, and in line, there has already been enough imaginary expenses conjured up to overwhelm us with debt.

But a careful survey of those would be champions of quiet repose, reveals the fact that they are principally constitutional do-nothings, absolute literal blanks in society so far as enterprise is concerned, and although opposed to a city government, are as ready to enjoy such luxuries when purchased with other people's expense, as by who favor the movement. The fact is, City government can be, and not infrequently is, run in such a manner as to lessen the burden to the inhabitants. But this does not prove that such results follow as a logical consequence. And I am quite sure the town infested with as many ignorant boors as Dixon is, men who have no especial business of their own, and consequently occupy themselves with the affairs of their neighbors, would not permit a charter to be adopted that was not completely hedged in on all sides from financial extravagance. It is suggested that the sidewalks can be built and other necessary improvements made by private citizens. The fire engine and the night watchman are living and brilliant illustrations of this kind of liberality.

I know men whose business uptown (to wit: whittling wooden Foxes) is so urgent as to call them forth daily, who have to wade through the mud for years to pursue their invasive occupation, and never thought of this noble method of beautifying their homes until something savoring of compulsion was hinted at, and then all of the sudden thought themselves as self-sacrificing. There are others who daily travel to and from their homes on sidewalks built exclusively with other people's money and who refused when called upon for help to donate a single cent.

These men are not in favor of incorporation. But there are better men of Sterling worth and integrity who oppose the movement solely from pecuniary matters. Gentlemen, for such we take you to be, this is your privilege. This meeting, as we understand it, was not called for the purpose of endeavoring to force anything obnoxious on the people, but to discuss the merits and demerits of the case and to ascertain what the real feeling among the illegible men in our community were upon the subject.

A reasonable amount should be expended yearly for the improvement of our town, and as long as it remains unincorporated a few of our liberal citizens will have the burden to bear, or it will not be done. Noisome institutions and naisances must be tolerated to the disgust of all

decent people, and cesspools and Chinese dens are privileged characters so long as we have no municipal laws.

[signed by:] Citizen

#### TOWN INCORPORATION.

ED. TRIBUNE. -. Seeing there is a call given in the last issue of the Tribune asking the citizens of Dixon to attend a meeting to be held on the 17th inst to take into consideration the propriety of incorporating the town of Dixon.

Now, I wish to ask a few questions touching such a move. First, what advantage can possibly arise from having the town incorporated, is there a want of law to protect the health of the good people of the town? I say not; is the object to improve the streets? If so, the Lord gives you all the privileges you can ask. Is it to arrest crime? Then the law makes every man an officer to that extent. I can see that one object, that of creating more taxes and possibly a little more litigation for our now overworked lawyers.

The town is yet in its infancy and cannot well afford to pay blood money for the empty honor of claiming the name of being and incorporated burgh. The gentleman who wishes for the incorporation of Dixon will confer a favor by stating what the gain will be from such a move. Yours as ever, "Prinz ?"

#### THE HEALTHIEST PLACE.

According to the report of the State Board of Health, Dixon and vicinity is rated the healthiest section of the state. The number of deaths last year being only 17 out of an estimated population of 6000. The estimated population is outrageously too high-unless it is meant to include the whole northern end of Solano County, above Fairfield, and if it does then the death record is too small.

The truth is, the health record was made up from the interments in Dixon Cemetery alone and the vicinity only embraces the region adjacent to the town, interring its dead here. This being the case, 2000 would be an outside figure for the population. So that the rate of mortality would be 8.4 instead of 2.8, as stated in the report even this showing leaves Dixon one of the healthiest places in the state upon a fair estimate of the population. And we verily believe that this vicinity is in fact, one among, if not the very healthiest region in the State. As an evidence of which [the town] only decently supports two physicians. A third one that came here year ago, being unable to make it pay, left last week for a more profitable field.

January 29, 1876

VACAVILLE CORRESPONDENCE.

[incorporation]. As the citizens of Dixon are discussing the question of Incorporation, and hygiene, it may not be inappropriate for me to relate the following occurrence in this place, recently-as having an important bearing on the subject of sewerage as a preventive or cause of disease, according as it is perfect or otherwise in its construction.

Mr. G. Scott, who has for some years been a resident of Yolo County and the owner of a large Rancho there, desiring to send his children (five in number) to the college in this place [Vacaville], purchased the residence of T. Dean here, for which he paid \$2,000. The residence is on a hillside and had every appearance of being a very healthy locality, which induced Mr. S. To pay a higher price for the property than he otherwise would.

The family had been residing in the house about six weeks, when one of the daughters was taken down with typho-malarial fever. In a few days another daughter and son were taken. About the same time the two daughters of Rev. W. Scott, in the same house were taken with the same disease. Three physicians were in attendance.

The first case was taken in a very malignant form, and after four weeks suffering, in spite of the best approved treatment, died. The immediate cause of death being ulceration and opening of an abscess into the windpipe. This daughter was taken to the home Rancho for interment, and the remaining well daughter accompanied the remains, while a smaller brother had been sent out several days before. The day after their arrival there, the daughter and son were both taken with the same affliction, the former severely, the latter more mildly.

Thus, there were seven cases of this fever originating from the same local cause. And, what was the cause? On investigation, the following facts were ascertained. When the family first moved to the place, the cellar or milk-house which was partly under and partly above ground, was in a very filthy condition from which the eldest boy, assisted by one of the girls, carried out several tub full of very offensive filth. At the rear the house or kitchen there was a space three or 4 feet wide, excavated from the hillside, and about 2 feet below ground, close to the house and kitchen, an old dilapidated sewer was found, completely blocked up with filth, while the rain water with which the earth was saturated had soaked through the filth which had been accumulating for years, and thence under the room of the poor girl who died. It has been since ascertain that several severe cases of typhoid fever had occurred in this house five or six years ago.

Thus, it will be seen that all these disastrous consequences resulted from neglecting to keep the sewer open. Mr. S. Was entirely ignorant of common even the existence of the sewer, which was probably the case with Mr. D. whose family occupied it when Mr. S. Purchased it.

People who allow these unhealthy accumulations about their premises, are not all necessarily of filthy habits; they are careless and thoughtless.

How many places are there in Dixon where the seeds of a future pestilence are being sown, can only be known when the Corporation laws authorize the investigation. Public hygiene cannot be conserved by individual effort. It is only through Corporate laws, that proper hygienic measures can be enforced.

N. B. [TRIBUNE Editor]-Since writing the above the daughter taken sick on the Rancho has died, and I learned that the mother is sick and not expected to recover, while the little boy who was earlier removed from the infected premises to the Rancho has recovered, after a light attack of only a few days.

- The streets of Dixon are in good condition for -- mud sledding. Just as our enterprising opponents of Incorporation like to see them.

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## The Incorporation Process

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February 05, 1876

### CITIZENS INCORPORATION MEETING

In compliance with previous arrangements the Citizens Incorporation Meeting convened at Public Hall at 7:30 PM, on Monday evening January 31. Mr. Peter Smythe, Chairman; Mr. Sickal, Secretary.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting being disposed with, the Chairman called for the Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the possibility, advisability and expense of incorporating the town of Dixon under a general act of incorporation by the Legislature.

The Committee consisting of: a. J. Buckles, A. Hochheimer, George Frahm, S.

G. Little, and W. S. Hinman, presented their reports which was accepted and the committee discharged. (See report) The following is the report of said committee:

To The Citizens of Dixon - We, your Committee appointed on the 17th day of January 1876 to investigate the matter of Incorporating the Town of Dixon, the best method of doing so under the laws of this State, and the matter of proceeding, etc., and to report the result of such investigation; do now beg leave to submit the following as our report:

In 1886 an Act was passed by the State Legislature which among other things, gave the Board of Supervisors of Counties power, on petition of a majority of the inhabitants of any town, the population of which exceeds two hundred [200], to declare such town Incorporated.

The Act referred to, also provided for the government of the town might be so incorporated. This was a general Act and applied to all Counties of the state, and also repealed all former Acts of the same nature.

But in 1872 the laws of California were revised, and compiled into what is now known as the Four Codes, viz.: "The Penal," and "The Code of Civil Procedure." This revision and compilation was made by a Commission acting by authority of the Legislature; and the revision and compilation of the laws so made became law of the State of California by an act of the Legislature thereof, made and enacted for the purpose. Said Codes thereby taking effect and being in force from and after the hour of 12 o'clock noon on the first day of January 1873.

In the Political Code we find the following provisions in reference to the continuing in force a laws existing at the time the Codes took effect.

Sec. 18 of said Code reads as follows:

"No statute law, or rule is continued in force because it is consistent with the provisions of this code on the same subject, but in all cases provided for by this code all statutes, laws, and rules heretofore enforced in this State, whether consistent or not with the provisions of this code, unless expressly continued in force by it are repealed and abrogated. The repeal or abrogation does not revive any former law heretofore repealed, nor does it affect any right already existing or accrued, or any notion or proceeding already taken, except as in this Code provided, nor does it effect any private statute not expressly repealed."

It is therefore found by your Committee, that in order to continue in force the act of 1856, above referred to, the same must be continued in force by some provision of the codes.

Section 19 of said Code and which is the only section we have been able to find which continues enforce laws of nature of the one in controversy, and reads as follows:

"Nothing in either of the four Codes affect any of the provisions of the following statutes, but such statutes are recognized as continuing in force, notwithstanding the provisions of the Codes, except so far as they had been repealed or affected by subsequent laws:

1st, ACTS incorporating or chartering municipal corporations and Acts amending or supplementing such Acts.

2nd, All Acts consolidating Cities and Counties and Acts amending or supplementing such Acts etc. etc."

We have quoted so much of said section as referred to Act incorporating towns and cities. We have been unable to find any other provision of the Codes bearing upon the subject. The provisions already

cited clearly do not continue in force the general incorporating Act of 1856.

Therefore in the opinion of your Committee there is at this time no law in existence in this State by which the Board of County Supervisors have power to incorporate this or any other town; and that there is but one way by which the Town of Dixon May become an incorporated town, and that is by and Act of The legislature specifically incorporating the same.

Your committee to further find that in order to prepare and draft a proper Bill to be presented to the Legislature, for incorporating the town, it would be necessary to have made a survey of territory sought to be incorporated, that the boundary lines might be accurately defined and distinctly marked. To make such a survey would require the service of a practical Engineer or Survey or, in the cost of such services would not as we believe exceed \$50. The expense of drafting a Bill suitable to the wants and necessities of the citizens of Dixon as a municipal corporation would be trifling.

The expense of securing the passage of an Act to Incorporate the town, cannot be at the present time ascertained by your committee. As to what provisions would be necessary to put into such a Bill or Act for the government of the town after being incorporated, we do not feel that we are directed to report; but would beg leave to state that the officers necessary would be at least a Board of Trustees consisting of 3 or 5 persons, a Marshal and a Night Watch, and it might be found necessary to have other officers, but the ones enumerated would be indispensable to the good government of the incorporated town.

Whether it would be advisable to have the Town of Dixon incorporated by an Act of the Legislature we did not feel sufficiently advised to report.

In the event you decide not to incorporate we desire to make the following recommendations and respectfully ask that you consider the same in the light which we make it, that is for the common good.

After a careful examination of the Road laws of this state, we find that any School District may become a Road District by an order of the Board of Supervisors of the County, upon a petition of a majority of the property owners of that School District. (See Section 2648 Political Code and amendments 1875-4, page 118.) We would therefore recommend that the property owners of Dixon School District petition the Board of Supervisors to set apart the territory of said School District and constitute the same as a Road District. We believe the Town of Dixon would be largely benefited by a measure of this kind for the following reasons:



First. The District so formed would be small; would contain few roads outside the streets in Dixon; yet containing a large percentage of the taxable property of the district in which Dixon is now situated

Second. It would contain a large population of male persons over the age of 21 years and under the age of 50 years who would be required to labor on the highways two days each year or pay a fee of four dollars (\$4).

Third. With the annual labor or Road poll tax and the amount of money derived from the levy annually made by the Board of Supervisors on this valuation of property, besides keeping the highways in the District outside of Dixon in good repair, it would enable you to grade all the principal streets in the town and construct ditches by which the town would be thoroughly drained.

We also find that the highways of a Road District may be macadamized by order of the Board of Supervisors, the Bonds of the Road District being issued therefor. (See New Section 2 Political Code, No. 2654, Amendments 1873-4 Page 38). Protection of sidewalks (see Section 2682 Political Code.)

As the law now is the Road Tax Collected goes to the district in which it is levied and collected, except that the Board of Supervisors may retain of the Road tax Collected not to exceed 20%, for Gen. Road purposes to be expended where it will benefit all the County.

Therefore an Act of the Legislature is necessary, in order to give the new District above recommended, all the Road tax collected therein.

A. J. BUCKLES, Chairman

A. HOCHHEIMER

W. S. HINMAN. GEO. FRAHM

S. G. LITTLE.

W. E. Dashiel offered a motion which was finally withdrawn in favor of a substitute offered by A. J. Buckles with George Frahm as second, as follows:

**RESOLVED:** that a Committee of five be appointed by the Chair, to procure signers to a petition, asking the Board of Supervisors to set apart Dixon School District as a Road District; also, in the event of such an order being granted, by the Board of Supervisors, said committee shall be authorized to draw up and present to the Legislature, a bill which, when the same shall become a law, shall give to the Road District all the funds raised by taxation in said District.

The Resolution was adopted and, the Chair appointed the following named as the committee: A. J. Buckles, Chairman; W. A. Dashiel, George Frahm, H. Eppinger, and K. E. Kelly.

The meeting adjourned subject to call of Committee. M. SICKAL,  
Sec.

November 04, 1876

### SICKNESS.

[Sanitation, Incorporation]. Dixon we regret to say, is now and for the past six weeks or more, has been the most dire fever-scourged town in all this region of the country. True, there have been but few deaths, but the number of fever stricken patients have exceeded, by 100 percent, at least, anything ever witnessed in this region. Nor is it at all to be wondered at. There is nothing mysterious about the prevalence of these low types of fever, among adults and diphtheria and croup among the children. It is just what we predicted nearly a year ago, when we besought the good citizens of the burg to take measures looking to a thorough system of sewerage and drainage of the town.

But as this could only be done through the organization of a municipal government, the movement was defeated by a few do- less and penurious property holders, who preferred to risk sickness and even death, to the payment of a dollar for municipal purposes! The result thus far has fully verified our predictions, and the end is not yet, for if it be true in fact, as medical science and Hygiene declare it to be, that all or even a major part of all, these fevers are malarial, arising from impure air generated by decaying animal or vegetable matter, or both, then it follows that as the town increases in size and age, the place must become more and more unhealthy, unless the cause producing this malaria is removed. It is not to be wondered at at all, that Dixon should be an unhealthy place, when the fact is considered that every particle of filth deposited on the streets, backyards, stables, cesspools, etc., remains just where it falls until the rains of Winter distill its contents and send it down, down, until it reaches the water supply, when it mingles with and becomes a part of all the water used in the place. Then, if that was of itself insufficient to engender disease and death, a slaughterhouse, and numerous pig pens in the populated parts of the town is added to taint the air we breathe!

Naturally Dixon is, or ought to be, one of the healthiest towns in the State, but instead of being healthy it is fast becoming the reverse. The remedy for this unhealthiness is within the reach of the citizens themselves. There are no Pontine marshes to be drained; no festering pools of stagnant water to fill up. It only needs that the people will protect themselves against diseases produced by their own everyday habits. In other words, and thus purify both the water and the air. A few thousand dollars-- two or three, at the outside, judiciously expended, will sewer and thoroughly drain the town. We verily believe that the money outlaid for medical treatment, loss of time, etc., incident to this Fall's sickness alone,

without counting the suffering and sacrifice of life directly chargeable to this lack of drainage, would pay all the costs of sewerage! It is high time that our citizens should begin to think seriously upon this matter.

November 25, 1876

#### VISIT OF STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

-- [incorporation, Sanitation] Information coming to hand that the Secretary of the State Board of Health, proposed a visit to Dixon for the purpose of ascertaining if there was not some local cause for the prevalence of diphtheria, a meeting of the citizens was called at the Public Hall, November 17. For the purpose of taking such action in the premises, as the people deemed advisable. Doctor A. H. Pratt was elected Chairman, and W. S. A. Dashiell, Secretary. H. Eppinger stated the object of the meeting.

The Chairman spoke at length upon the scourge now devastating our town, its causes, and the measures necessary to adopt to prevent a further spread. H. Eppinger, A. Hochheimer, and N.B.S. Coleman, George Frahm, and E. E. Leake were appointed a committee to confer with the Secretary of the State Board of Health. Doctors Pratt, Evans and Carlisle were afterwards added to the committee.

The meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman.

Immediately after the adjournment of the public meeting, the committee assembled and organized by the selection of Doctor A. H. Pratt as Chairman, and id. E. Leake as Secretary.

Saturday evening Doctor Hatch, Secretary of the State Board of Health, accompanied by Doctor Nelson, of Sacramento, came down [to Dixon], and in company with members of the committee, visited the schoolhouse and other localities in town.

After hearing the statements of a number of citizens, Doctors Hatch and Nelson recommended that the citizens apply to the Board of Supervisors for the appointment of a Board of Health for Dixon. They were confident that under the general laws of the State, such a board would have power to enforce such sanitary measures as were necessary for the preservation of the health of the community.

They further recommended, that all filth be immediately removed from the streets, backyards cleaned, and cellars and water closets thoroughly fumigated and disinfected. For this purpose, they suggested the use of Chloride of Lime and Sulfate of Iron, and the committee at once ordered two barrels of lime and one of Sulfate of Iron. Mr. John Davenport has been engaged during the week in disinfecting the town, and it is hoped that these precautionary measures may prevent the further spread of the two prevailing diseases, diphtheria and typhoid fever

## DIPHTHERIA

[This article is from the Napa Reporter in commenting upon the death rate in Dixon from this infantile scourge uses this emphatic language:]

“Know good people, that this, as well as other epidemic diseases, is preventable. It’s because is a specific germ which grows and breeds in cesspools, festering filth and privy vaults. From those places the germs are carried down to the water which underlies the town, and which we drink the poison of which causes death. Nature has provided that when people heard together in masses, they must obey certain laws in order to be healthy. They must be cleanly—which does not mean simply that they must wash their persons and wear clean clothes--but that their houses, streets, and yards must also be clean.

To affect this, art has provided sewers to carry off everything unwholesome, and also the means of bringing pure water from a distance. The people of Napa, however, seem loath to avail themselves of these things which are so necessary to health and comfort. They build handsome houses, paint, furnish and adorn them, but please them where disease will kill the inmates. The moral of this is that we must have sewers and pure water the disease has spent its force in Dixon and the patients are recovering, but what guarantee have we that it will not return again with deadly force next season? What have our people done to permanently ward off its deadly attacks? Nothing—literally nothing! True, disinfectants have been used, which has doubtless done much to purify the atmosphere, but that is all! Every body knows that the origin of this disease-like all malarial fevers, has its Argent below the surface, and until the good people of Dixon shall awake to the importance of purifying the water we drink as well as the air we breathe, Dixon can never again be free from periodical returns of this and kindred diseases! The town must be drained and pure water obtained. To accomplish the first the town must "adopt" a system of sewerage, and to accomplish the latter, one of the two methods must be adopted-The boring for and obtaining artesian water, or else obtaining the water supply from beyond the limits of the town!

A year ago we urged the adoption of the former, and predicted the result if our suggestions were not adopted. Alas, our warning was not heeded, but our predictions have been fearfully realized. And now, while it is too late to retrieve the past, there is yet time to guard against the future. But will our citizens act upon our suggestions? We doubted; and that for the simple reason that many of the property owners are too afraid of being taxed, if they incorporate the town, and without incorporation nothing will be done--and that for the simple reason no one is authorized to inaugurate the needed improvement!

The following prescription for cure of the disease, is from the San Jose Herald: "A small quantity of either sulfate of iron, tannin, or chlorate of potash, put dry upon the tongue, and allowed to dissolve there, once in every hour, have all been found to be most efficient remedies in the early stages of diphtheria."

December 09, 1876

#### SANITARY

At a meeting of the Citizens' Relief, Society, Public Hall, Monday evening, the suggestions of the State Board of Health were adopted, and a request for the appointment of a Town Board of Health was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors, now in session at Fairfield.

December 23, 1876

#### DIXON BOARD OF HEALTH

The Supervisors, at their called session, last week, appointed Doctors Pratt, Evans and Carlisle, and Messieurs. H. Eppinger and Mr. Hochheimer, a Board of Health for the unincorporated town of Dixon, with the proviso that the County will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by said Board.

January 13, 1877

#### THE GENERAL HEALTH OF DIXON

The general health of Dixon is improving, and the numerous fever-stricken patients all convalescing. There is but one new case of diphtheria in town; that is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Straub, who was taken down Monday, and he is on the mend. In a short time we hope to be able to note the total disappearance of the epidemic.

January 27, 1877

#### CURE FOR DIPHTHERIA

A small quantity of either sulfate of iron, tannin, or chlorate of potash, put dry upon the tongue, and allowed to dissolve there, once in every hour, have all been found to be most effective remedies in the early stages of diphtheria. This terrible disease appears under three varieties of forms:

First -- There is a fever, severe pains in the back, bones and limbs, and very great prostration. There may be no soreness of the throat, but on examining it, small white specks will be noticed on the tonsils, but few or none on the rest of the throat. These cases will recover under any and every variety of treatment in 4 to 6 days. The great, but false reputation of many of these remedies and physicians is based upon

the and necessarily favorable results of these cases.

Second -- Large patches of false membrane will be noticed both on the tonsils and back of the throat; but the glands of the neck do not become swollen. The majority of these cases will also recover under very simple treatment, unless the disease extends down to the windpipe, which it rarely does.

Third -- True malignant diphtheria, with swelling of the glands of the neck and under the jaw; profuse and often offensive exudations in the mouth and throat; more or less discharge from the nostrils. Chlorate of potash is a disinfectant as well as curative remedy, and if given pure in dry upon the tongue every hour, night and day, will rarely disappoint the practitioner. A small dose every night may act as a preventative remedy. Sometimes tannin may be given more readily than the chlorate of potash. The sulfate of iron is rather more irritant, and must be given in smaller quantities. The main points in the use of these remedies are to give them dry upon the tongue, and frequently and regularly, both night and day.

April 14, 1877

#### STREET SPRINKLER

The street sprinkler made its appearance on Tuesday for the first time this season. [Obviously, there is some sort of collective will, in Dixon that organizes and pays for services beneficial to the community. HSM]

August 25, 1877

#### CHINESE WASH HOUSES

There are several Chinese wash-houses in town, which owing to poor sewerage, or rather total lack of it, are storing up in foul and pestilential cesspools, the materials for the fevers and diseases that wheat on noxious vapors and a poisoned atmosphere. Let some public spirited citizen make a legal complaint on behalf of the community.

October 27, 1877

#### THE HEALTH QUESTION

Up to date, eight or nine cases of diphtheria have been reported by physicians in attendance. There have been two deaths so far-those of the Shaw and Snyder children. We believe all the others who have been attacked are in a fair way to recover.

Considerable difference of opinion exists as to the prevalence of this disease at the present time, some believing it is brought on by peculiar conditions of the temperature adapted to develop the latent germs; others that it is due to an unhealthy condition of the Town owing to a neglect of proper sanitary arrangements; while others even doubt if there have been more, then three or four undoubted cases of diphtheria, the others being

bad cases of sore throat. Dr. Gordon reports having had six cases; Dr. Evans had a number of cases sometime since in the family of J. W. McFadyen, but none lately; Dr. Crawford reports no cases of diphtheria, but he has attended several persons who had some throat, and he is of opinion that this epidemic of sore throats may develop into diphtheria, and that we shall soon have that disease, if there are no cases of it now.

The cause of diphtheria is unknown to medical men, but nearly everybody now considers it a blood disease and the use of constitutional remedies instead of local one is everywhere gaining ground. While the presence of malarial poison in the atmosphere has, so far as known, no special agency in this production of an epidemic of this particular disease, anything which tends to depress and lower the general health, opens a way for the attacks of all diseases, diphtheria included. And if the germs of a particular disease are lurking in any vicinity nothing would tend to develop them more than neglect of proper sanitary measures.

Last season a part of the fatal cases of diphtheria were in the country and others were in town though outside of the central portion, where it might be supposed local poisons would be most noxious; but all or nearly all of the children in these cases were in attendance on the public schools.

While there is no reason for a scare at this time, it is an opportune moment to insist upon the importance of greater attention to hygiene regulations. It is the opinion of candid judges that Dixon is rather below the average of towns of its size in this respect. This is all wrong, for if the streets and private premises were clean, sinks and cesspools and [illegible] carried away before it has time to accumulate there would not be a healthier town in the Sacramento Valley.

It is only a few years since the report of the State Board of Health showed a lower rate of mortality for Dixon than in any other town of California. When a town Board of Health was appointed last year, important advantages were expected from its supervision; but it was discovered that its powers were so limited as to deprive it of all usefulness. Perhaps no satisfactory measures can ever be taken until the town is incorporated, but in the meantime it is perfectly easy to prevent worst coming to worst by voluntary action of the citizens; by every person exerting himself to keep his own premises clean; by compelling the Chinese breeders of pestilence to abate the nuisance of their towel stench holes; by liberally using chloride of lime in the worst places and last but not least, by employing a street cleaner by public subscription, to devote a few hours each week to keep the streets free from filth and garbage.

November 24, 1877

RIO VISTA INCORPORATION

**RIO VISTA.** is agitating the incorporation question, and a mass meeting to ascertain the sentiments of the majority was held Monday evening. An unsuccessful attempt to raise money for the equipment of a fire department by voluntary assessment based on the county tax roll, is the immediate cause of this movement. Real Vista finds herself in the same position that many other un-incorporated towns in California have found themselves, and among the rest, Dixon – a position in which they discover it is impossible to prosecute needed improvements and adopt the commonest measures of safety owing to the absence of any local or township government. It is this lack of township organization which drive so many young towns in California to incorporate as regular cities when their population is so small as to make it seem a mere burlesque on city government. In Massachusetts the smallest population with which a town can be incorporated is 11,000. But in this State we have incorporated cities containing not over a thousand people; and this condition is actually necessary because some form of local government is indispensable, and a regularly incorporated municipality is the only escape from an un-organized Township.

December 29, 1877

#### IMPORTANT IF TRUE

The holiday number of the *Spirit of the Times* in the article on Solano County has the following in its historical mention of Dixon: "It grew so rapidly that sufficient care was not taken in the matter of drainage and about a year ago, Dixon suffered severely from zymotic diseases. A carefully planned system of sewerage was then inaugurated, and Dixon is now as healthy as any town in California." It is evident that Mr. Boruck has sources of information not accessible to the general public.

March 16, 1878

#### THE INCORPORATION MEETING

The final meeting of citizens in relation to the incorporation question was held last Tuesday evening, and the proceedings, though marked with more hard feeling and less regard for the usual rules of order than might have been desired, gave a fair expression of opinion of the persons present. The principal vote was taken on a dilatory motion, it is true; but everybody understood the question, and knew it was a test vote; nobody who wished to kill the initiative voted against laying it on the table. We say nobody did, because inquiry fails to find anyone who will say that he would have voted differently, notwithstanding assertions have been made that there are such. The majority by which it has been voted to incorporate is small, and we could wish for the sake of harmony that opinion was more unanimous; but still it is a majority composed of persons as intelligent and generally esteemed as the minority; and this is one of those things in which majorities have ruled from time immemorial. If any think a matter of this kind should not be carried on so small a



majority, but then remember that two years ago the same movement was defeated by a still smaller majority than the one by which it is now carried, and then the majority acquiesced gracefully.

If those who oppose the movement from fear of the burden of taxation will consider a few facts we believe they will feel willing to see the experiment tried. The utmost limit of taxation is \$0.50 on the hundred dollars, and it ought not to be assumed, as by many do that the rate will always be as high as this; it is likely to be 25 cents as 50. But suppose it is the latter. That is only five dollars on the \$1,000, \$10 on \$2,000, \$15 on \$3,000, and \$25 on each \$5,000. Property is usually assessed about one third its true value. Suppose a man is worth \$1,500, and is assessed for \$500; his tax is \$2.50. Is not that trifling? If the same person happens to be a member of the fire Company (which will hereafter be run by the city), his yearly dues amount to three dollars. As for street assessments, the limit is \$2.50 per front foot in any one year. On an ordinary lot of thirty feet front. This is \$15.

We have heard some speak as though this would be a standing tax; but such is not the case, for street work once, well done is done for a series of years. Again, there are only three or four blocks in the city upon which improvements of any great consequence are likely to be made. Outside these blocks all the street work, and some of it inside them, will be paid for with the money from road poll taxes, if we can get them returned to the city.

Let it be remembered that if two years trial shows the experiment of incorporation is unsatisfactory there will be nothing to prevent disincorporation at any time.

The remonstrance which has been prepared against the charger asks that if it is passed at all, it shall be submitted to a popular vote for adoption or rejection. Believing a majority of the town are fairly in favor of incorporation, and wishing to see everybody satisfied, we should have no great objection to this, providing those who propose it can devise a method to bear the expense of such an election in case the matter is voted down. Nevertheless, we understood before the last meeting that its decision would be final, and supposed everybody else did.

As it has been asserted that it is the usual course to submit charters to the people after their approval by the Legislature, and even that, not to do it would be without precedent in the history of the State, we feel called upon to state the facts. We have examined the statutes for a series of years, and out of a large number of charters can find only one in which anything of the kind was submitted to the electors. This was "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Town of Healdsburg," passed at the session of 1873-4. Whether the original charger was so submitted we do not know. But at that same session. Original charters were adopted for

Santa Barbara, Wheatland, Menlo Park, and Sutter Creek; none of which were resubmitted to the people. Re-incorporations were made of San Buenaventura, Eureka, Chico, San Jose, Woodland and Hollister, and in no case were the people asked to vote on it after the Legislature had

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## Incorporation Formalities

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passed the bill

### THE PROPOSED CHARTER

#### Synopsis of its Provisions.-

Owing to the short time since the proposed charter was prepared, and the press of other matters, we are not able to print it in full, this week, but will do so next week. Following is a synopsis of each section:

Section 1, in the requisite legal phraseology constitutes the town of Dixon, a body corporate and enables it to sue and defend in the courts.

Section 2 defines the limits which are the same as we gave them last week. [Issue missing from digital archive-HSM]

Section 3 vests the power of government in a Board of five Trustees, a Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal, who are to be elected on the second Monday in February each year; the first officers to be elected at a date to be set by the County Judge, not more than sixty days after the passage of the act.

Section 4 provides for the organization of the Board.

Section 5 makes the City Marshal ex officio Assessor and Collector.

Section 6 makes the President of the trustees ex officio Street Commissioner; but no member of the Board shall receive any compensation.

Section 7 defines the powers of the Board of Trustees; they have the powers usually granted to such bodies to abate nuisances, licensing shows, etc., maintaining a fire department, levying a property tax not to exceed one half of 1 percent, etc.

Section 8 gives the Board power to order street improvements when petitioned for by the owners of a major part of the property in any block.

Section 9 constitutes the Board of Trustees, a Board of Equalization.

Section 10 makes the Trustees judges of the elections and qualifications of officers. Section 11 empowers the Trustees to establish a city pound.

Section 12 gives the Justices of the Peace cognizance of violations of city ordinances.

Section 13 prohibits the contraction of any debt.

Section 14 gives the Board power to establish a chain-gang.

Section 15 says the act shall take effect from and after passage.

### **FAVOR INCORPORATION.**

Proceedings of the Second Charter Meeting the vote was 51 to 45 FOR incorporation.

The second city charter meeting was held at Public Hall Tuesday evening, with a larger attendance than before.

After the call to order, and approval of the minutes, A. Hochheimer reported that the committee of five had prepared the draft of the charter, and three members had signed the report recommending its adoption.

K. E. Kelly then read the document for the information of the meeting W. H. Northcutt, to kill. It, moved to lay on the table until the second Saturday in April.

Hochheimer hoped the motion would not prevail--not, at least, until the draft had been discussed further, for as yet. The majority were not sufficiently acquainted with its contents to vote intelligently.

H. Eppinger expressed similar views, and said he wished. Northcutt had made a square motion to reject.

Northcutt said the whole business had been brought up precipitately at a late hour, and criticized the outline of the proposed limits, comparing it to a frying pan struck by lightning.

Kelley asked if Northcutt did not say at a meeting of the committee, the proposed limits were the best that could be made.

Northcutt replied that he said they were drawn as small as they could be. He stated as other objections to the draft that it proposed to incorporate the town without the consent of the people, as there was no provision for submitting the matter to a vote; that the powers vested in the Trustees, like the powers to impose licenses, were to ample and enable them to burden every kind of business.

Dickson said it had been tried two years ago, and then it was found the corporate limits could not go outside of the town plat.

Kelley replied to Northcutt, saying two things had been regarded in drawing the limits -- practicability and Justice. Some were in favor of taking the four quarter-section; but the majority of the committee thought that unjust, as it took in considerable farming land. Several farmers' residences with a small part of their land were included in the proposed limits, but the speaker believed they were all men who had benefited greatly by the existence of the town and made money out of it, and therefore ought not to complain. If the attempt was made to exclude them. It would be a precedent for leaving out others, and the corporate limits

would be made more irregular than those proposed. In reply to other objections.

The speaker called attention to the limitation of taxation, prohibition of death, restriction of cost of street work, the inability of the Trustees to order street work, except on petition, etc. As it had been said Suisun was one of the cities which found an incorporated government unsatisfactory, the committee had made particular inquiries and found the very reverse was the fact; Suisun was out of debt, the town government cost \$75 a year, everybody was satisfied and nobody proposed to disincorporate. Northcutt said the charger left the Trustees to be as extravagant as they chose in paying municipal officers.

Kelley replied the people choose their own officers and would look out for their own interests. Northcutt discussed the sanitary argument and alleged that the best physicians had never been able to attribute the disease, the local causes.

Hochheimer spoke at some length, saying there was the report of the State Board of Health to combat any arguments on the sanitary question. He analyzed the taxation clause, arguing that one half of 1 percent was too small of tax to be burdensome on anybody. The speaker had consulted with the business men of Suisun, and they were all well satisfied with their condition under the incorporation. It had been asserted that if the town was incorporated business houses would have to close on Sunday; there was a general statutes closing business houses on Sunday, and it could not be enforced, if the great State of California could not enforce a law of that kind, the little town of Dickson certainly could not even if it should pass one. He enlarged on the annoyance from stock ruining shrubbery, and thought a man who was willing to fix up his house and yard at great expense and with good taste should not be compelled as soon as he stepped out of his gaze to land in a mud hole.

Henry Smith believed Dixon was not large enough for incorporation get, the expenses which some thought would be so light were likely to become heavy in a very short time.

The discussion was carried on sometime longer, the arguments being of about the same character as those synopsized above, and finally, on motion of Kelley, it was agreed that all taxpayers and householders should be allowed to vote.

The chair appointed, Messrs., Dashiell, Hinman and Little tellers.

The votes were counted and found to stand: for laying on the table, 45; against, 51.

After several contradictory motions and some confusion, it was moved and voted to read and discuss the document section by section. The first section was read and adopted. After the second section had

been read it was voted to dispense with further reading and adopt as a whole.

Motions were subsequently made to amend by changing the boundary lines to leave out the places of J. S. Mayes and Peter Peters, but were rejected.

On motion, the chairman was authorized to appoint a committee of five to take charge of the charter and see it was presented to the Legislative delegation in proper form, and introduced. Messrs. Kasten, Kirby, Hinman, Kelley and Gordon were appointed such committee; and by vote,

A. Hochheimer was afterwards added. The meeting then adjourned sine die.

### FURTHER ABOUT THE CORPORATION

A remonstrance has been prepared against the Charter and extensively circulated. It recites that Dickson is not large enough to incorporate, containing only 800 inhabitants, that the proposed limits take in some farming land, that the vote at the meeting was not a fair test; that if the charter is passed at all. It ought to be with a clause submitting it to vote for approval or rejection. A counter petition has been drawn up and also largely signed.

March 23, 1878

### SANITARY

The following reference to Dixon and the health of the town appeared in the last report of the State Board of Health:

"The fact should not be omitted, however, that the town itself was in a condition favorable to the spread of an epidemic, and that typhoid fever had already been to some extent prevalent. Without a system of drainage, with a very general disregard of sanitary precaution in the disposal of refuse matters, with the accumulation of these around houses, or their imperfect removal by means of shallow surface drains, with foul privies reeking with ammoniacal odors, there was present a combination of conditions among which we might expect the occurrence and propagation of zymotic disease. We have in this case, the two factors of probable contagion on the one hand, and imperfect sanitary regulations on the other. The conveyance of the disease to the town in the first instance its subsequent diffusion by means of unrestricted communication between the sick and the well, and the favoring influence of the common causes of zymotic disease, seem to be facts upon the existence of which we can reasonably rely, and serve to illustrate the importance of at least two of the fundamental precepts of sanitary science as applied to the management of epidemic disease.

March 23, 1878

### THE CITY CHARTER [Proposed]

The "City Charter" was published in the Tribune of this date. The "City Charter" is verbatim "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Dixon" as passed by the State Legislature and approved 1878/03/30. The Act to Incorporate follows:

CHAP. CCCCLXII.—An Act to incorporate the Town of Dixon.  
[Approved March 30, 1878.]

The People of the State of California, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1st. . The people residing within the boundaries of that tract of land in Silveyville Township, Solano County, California, described

in section two of this Act, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the *Town* of Dixon, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued in all Courts and in all actions whatsoever, and shall have and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure, and may purchase, receive, hold, and enjoy real and personal property, and sell and dispose of the same, subject to the provisions and limitations of this Act, and in no other way whatsoever; provided, that this Act shall not take effect unless at the first election mentioned in section three of this Act a majority of the legal voters residing within the corporate limits of said town, as described in section two of this Act, shall vote in favor of the incorporation of said town.

SEC. 2nd. Commencing at a point on the north line of the corporation southeast quarter of section fourteen, township seven north, range one east, where the land of John S. Mayes and Thomas Dickson intersect, running thence due south to the section line dividing sections fourteen and twenty-three; thence west along said section line to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section twenty-three ; thence south along the west line of said northeast quarter of section twenty-three a distance of four hundred feet; thence due east to the west line of the land of the California Pacific Railroad Company; thence southwesterly along said west line of said railroad land to the south line of Mayes' Addition to the Town of Dixon, as shown by official plat of said addition now on file in the Recorder's office of Solano County; thence east along said south line of said Mayes' Addition to the said east line of northeast quarter of section twenty-three; thence north along said east line of said quarter section to the south line of the land of Henry Smith ; thence east along said south line of said Smith's land to the east line of the same; thence north along the said east line to the south line of the land of Ferguson and Coleman ; thence east along said south line of said Ferguson and Coleman's land to the east line of the same; thence north along said east line to a point six hundred and seventy-five feet south of the north line of the northeast quarter of section twenty-four; thence east to the east line of said northeast quarter of section twenty-four and thence north along said east line of said quarter section and continuing along the east line of the southwest quarter of section thirteen to the north line of the land of W. A. Dashiell; thence west along said north line of said Dashiell's land to the east line of the piece of land belonging to Peter Timm; thence north along said east line of said Timm's land to the north line of the same; thence west along said north line of said Timm's land to a point due south of where the east line of the California Pacific Railroad Company's land crosses the north line of the southwest quarter of section thirteen; thence due north to said north line of said southwest quarter of said section; thence due west to the place of beginning.

**SEC. 3rd.** The government of said town shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, to consist of five members, a Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal, who shall be elected by the qualified electors of said town on the first Monday of February, A. D. 1879, and shall hold office for one year; provided, that the first Board of Trustees, Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal shall be chosen in like manner, at a time to be designated by the County Judge of Solano County, which time shall not exceed sixty days after the passage of this Act, and four weeks notice thereof must be given, by publication in some newspaper published in said town, and the officers so chosen shall hold office until the first Monday in February, A. D. 1879, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

**SEC. 4th.** Within five days after their election and qualification the Board of Trustees of said town shall meet and organize, by electing one of their members President, another Secretary, and another Treasurer. All orders drawn on the treasury must be signed by the President and Secretary.

**SEC. 5th.** The Marshal of said town shall be ex officio Assessor and Collector, and shall receive such compensation for his services as the Board of Trustees may prescribe by ordinance.

**SEC. 6th.** The President of the Board of Trustees shall be ex officio Street Commissioner. But no member of the Board of Trustees shall receive any compensation for his services.

**SEC. 7th.** The Board of Trustees shall have power to make such by-laws and ordinances, not inconsistent with the laws of this State or of the United States, as they may deem necessary; to prevent and remove nuisances; to prohibit disorderly conduct; to provide for licensing public shows, lawful games, and business and mercantile establishments; to provide protection against fire ; to levy and collect, annually, a tax on all property in said town, not exceeding one-half of one per cent. of the assessment valuation thereof; to impose and collect a tax on dogs, not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents per annum, and to provide for the killing of said dogs if said tax is not paid ; to pass ordinances prohibiting drunkenness, profanity, vulgarity, indecent exposure of person, and vice of all kinds; to prevent the leaving of the carcass of any dead animal on any street, alley, or lane in said town ; to prevent the discharge of firearms of any kind within the town limits, except on public occasions ; to prevent the immoderate riding or driving of any animal on the highways in said town ; to prevent the cruel treatment of any useful animal; to compel the owners of property to remove any nuisances therefrom ; and to regulate generally the moral, sanitary, and public interests of the town.

**SEC. 8th.** The Board of Trustees shall have power to lay out, open, widen, and improve any public street or alley in said town, and to regulate



the width, grade, and construction of the same; to compel property owners to build and maintain sidewalks in front or on either side of their premises, when joining on any public street and when petitioned for Power of by parties representing a majority of frontage on such street, r°18 o&- and to regulate the size and construction of the same; provided, that the improving or grading of any street must be done in accordance with the provisions of Section 4,409 of the Political Code; and provided further, that no tax in any one fiscal year levied for this purpose shall exceed the sum of fifty cents per front foot.

SEC. 9th. The Board of Trustees, in the event of a tax being levied under this Act, and an assessment made, shall sit as a Board of Equalization for not less than two days, notice of which sitting shall be given by posting notice in three public places in said town for ten days next preceding the time fixed for such sitting, that the assessment roll is open for inspection, and that said Board will sit as a Board of Equalization to hear all complaints. They may require testimony and may increase or diminish the assessment of property or add any property that may have been omitted as may be just and equitable.

SEC. 10th. The Board of Trustees shall be the judges of the qualification of their own members, and of all election returns, and shall determine contested elections of town officers. They may prescribe such rules and regulations governing themselves, not inconsistent with this Act, as may best suit their convenience, including the manner of drawing orders on the treasury, holding meetings provided, that they shall hold at least one meeting every month and all other matters pertaining to the duties of their office.

SEC. 11th. The Board of Trustees may provide for a pound and Pound Master for the taking up and impounding of any horse, mule, jack, jenny, cattle, goats, sheep, or swine found at large within the town limits, and for the sale of the same by the Pound Master, also for the reclaiming or redemption of any such animal or animals by the owner, if he appear and claim the same, and may, by proper ordinance, establish rules and laws governing all proceedings under this section.

SEC. 12th. For the purposes of this Act, the Justices of the Peace of Silveyville 'Township are clothed with all the authority of authority of Police Judges under the general statutes of this Judges. State, and all moneys collected by them for a violation of any town law or ordinance, after deducting costs, must be turned over to the Board of Trustees for the use and benefit of the town.

SEC. 13th. The Board of Trustees are prohibited from contracting any debt on the credit of the town.

SEC. 14th. The Board of Trustees may provide for a chain-gang, and may cause parties who have been fined for the violation of any

ordinance of the town to work therein on the public streets of said town, not exceeding one day for every two dollars of such fine until it has been paid.

SEC. 15th. This Act shall take effect from and after its passage.

#### ON ITS PASSAGE.

The Charter Passed by the Senate and now in the Assembly.

Four members of the committee of six --- Messrs. Kirby, Kelly, Hinman and Gordon --- went to Sacramento Tuesday (1878/03/19 - Tuesday) afternoon to represent the charter matter to the local delegation. The charter itself had been sent up the week before and introduced in the Senate by Mr. Hilborn. Mr. W.H. Northcutt also went up last week as a representative of those opposed to the incorporation, and interviewed the delegation, presenting the objections that had been urged against it. Tuesday evening the committee had a conference with the delegation at the Capitol Hotel; and in consequence thereof Mr. Hilborn reported back the bill in the Senate next morning, and by general consent it was passed under suspension of the rules and sent to the Assembly without engrossment.

Friday morning (1878/03/22 - Friday) several citizens opposed to the charter went up to the capitol, and have not yet returned. According the last report, the charter was to be brought up in the Assembly this morning. (1878/03/23 - Saturday)

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1878/03/30 (Saturday)

ELECTION NOTICE

Date of Approval of "An Act to incorporate the Town of Dixon" by the California legislature. Page 712 of 1877 - 1878 statutes, Chapter CCCCLXII.

An Act entitled an Act to Incorporate the Town of Dixon, approved 1878/03/30 (Saturday). [The body of the article is a reprint of the Act to Incorporate the Town of Dixon with the Governor's signature followed by The notice of election by the County Judge of Solano County. This notice of election follows:]

In pursuance of the provisions of the foregoing Act, I Jno. M. Gregory, County Judge of Solano county, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in the town of Dixon on Monday the 27th day of May, 1878; the polls for said election to be opened at one hour after sunrise and to be kept open until sunset of the said day; the qualifications of voters to be such as are prescribed in the Act hereinbefore set forth, and such qualified voters are to vote for and elect the following officers, to-wit:

Trustee.

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

• Treasurer

Assessor

Collector

Marshal

Said qualified voters will also vote on the question: "Shall the Town of Dixon be incorporated?"

The polling lace for said election will be at "the Public Hall," and the officers of election shall be: E.E. Leake, Inspector; W.R. Ferguson, Judge; A. Hochheimer, Judge.

Said order to be published for four weeks in the Dixon Tribune, a newspaper published in said Town.

Given under my hand, this 25th day of April, 1878. JNO. M. GREGORY, County Judge of Solano County.

March 30, 1878

#### THE CHARTER PASSED

With an Amendment for Popular Vote on it --- Hard Struggle over the Bill.

• Delegations representing both sides of the charter question left Dixon for Sacramento Tuesday and Wednesday they appeared before the Assembly delegation. Corporation was represented by Messrs. Kelly,

Kirby, Gordon, Hinman and Kasten of the committee; and anti-incorporation by W.R. Ferguson, J.S. Mayes, Peter Peters and T.J. Clunie, their attorney.

They met the delegation by appointment at 8 o'clock in a committee room of the Capitol, and the matter was argued pro and con until after 2 p.m.. Mr. Haile was chosen chairman, and Clunie opened the argument by endeavoring to show that the remonstrance against incorporation represented over half of the taxable property of the town. A certified statement of property in the proposed limits from Treasurer Lemon was exhibited and the other side also showed a comparative statement of property, each claiming that it had the bulk of property on its side. Mr. Clunie on the part of the anti-incorporationists, and Mr. Kelley on the other side entered into a long and exhaustive discussion of this question; each piece of property being taken up in order and placed under its appropriate head; the chairman ruling on all disputed cases. The discussion was very animated, Clunie at one point getting excited and referring to the meeting of taxpayers at which the charter was endorsed as "a mob" --- for which he afterwards apologized.

With the incidental discussion of other points and frequent spats, it was 2:30 o'clock before the tabulation of property was completed. A great deal was excluded on one point or another, and the statement did not by any means represent the complete taxable wealth of the town. But the corporation came out ahead by a few hundred dollars. The number of names on the different petitions had also been canvassed in the meantime and at the conclusion Assemblyman Dare was in favor of the bill as it stood, but Mr. Haile announced that he should have to offer an amendment to return the bill for a popular vote upon it. This proposition was discussed some time, and the corporation committee declined to accept the amendment.

At the evening session of the House the bill was reported back by Assemblyman Dare, who made a neat speech in its support: when Haile offered his amendment. He supported it principally on the ground that the people of the town were very near evenly divided. Grove Johnson and some others spoke on the same side and to the same effect. Mr. Dare spoke again and T.J. Hart of Colusa also opposed the amendment. In fact the debate lasted three quarters of an hour and some of the members were very impatient at wasting so much time on a mere local bill. Finally the vote was taken when a large part of the members were out of their seats and the amendment prevailed by seven majority. The bill was then passed unanimously.

After this action the friends and opponents of the bill had a meeting and the latter agreed not to oppose it further progress, either by

defeating it in the Senate where it goes for concurrence in the amendment, or by inducing the Governor to pocket it.

The committee in charge of the bill acknowledge their obligations to Senator Hillborn for his service in expediting the passage of the bill in the Senate. Mr. Dare was impressed with the justice of the measure from the first and worked for its success with great zeal and ability. We also learn that Mr. Kelley's argument on the bill before the delegation was very able and received the compliments of Mr. Clunie.

April 06, 1878

### OF INCORPORATION

It is a fact that many towns in California, when their growth has received a temporary impetus, have hastened to incorporate and rush into costly municipal improvements; and afterwards the increase of population having ceased, found themselves heels over head in debt, their short-live dream of a thriving city dissipated, and no consolation from any source for their folly. Such things as these have set a great many against incorporation as always a dangerous experiment.

But the circumstances under which the movement in favor of incorporation takes place in Dixon are totally dissimilar to those in the cases referred to. Here we are not excited over a sudden growth or gone wild in speculation. The incorporation movement does not spring from a desire to be citified. *It is resorted to simply, as a relief from certain disagreeable features of an unincorporated town, with no local power to correct the most common abuses.* There is no intention of going blindly into general improvements based on expectations of future growth.

The only improvements which it is expected to make, or for which the charter grants power, are those absolutely necessary to secure the health of the town and render it desirable as a place of residence. Under such circumstances, we think the fear of extravagant expenditures is rather far-fetched.

As we have stated before, the mere expense of keeping up the form of a corporation and paying the few small salaries necessary, is not what makes the experiment so costly in some places. It is the contraction of debt and heavy taxation for other and distinct purposes--four aping the ways of a large city where neither population or wealth are sufficient to justify it.

### THE INCORPORATION BILL A LAW

The bill incorporating the town of Dixon conditionally, became a law Monday (1878/04/01) by the signature of the Governor.

### ELECTION NOTICE

[County Judge Gregory has mandated that there be four Incorporation election notices published in the Tribune prior to the election, which will be held on 27 May 1878. This is the second such advertisement.]

An Act to Incorporate the Town of Dixon" as passed by the State Legislature and approved 1878/03/30.

CHAP. CCCCLXII.—An Act to incorporate the Town of Dixon. [Approved by the Legislature March 30, 1878.]

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## Articles of Incorporation

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The People of the State of California, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The people residing within the boundaries of that tract of land in Silveyville Township, Solano County, California, described in section two of this Act, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the Town of Dixon, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued in all Courts and in all actions whatsoever, and shall have and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure, and may purchase, receive, hold, and enjoy real and personal property, and sell and dispose of the same, subject to the provisions and limitations of this Act, and in no other way whatsoever; provided, that this Act shall not take effect unless at the first election mentioned in section three of this Act a majority of the legal voters residing within the corporate limits of said town, as described in section two of this Act, shall vote in favor of the incorporation of said town.

SEC. 2. Commencing at a point on the north line of the corporation southeast quarter of section fourteen, township seven north, range one east, where the land of John S. Mayes and Thomas Dixon intersect, running thence due south to the section line dividing sections fourteen and twenty-three; thence west along said section line to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section twenty-three ; thence south along the west line of said northeast quarter of section twenty-three a distance of four hundred feet; thence due east to the west line of the land of the California Pacific Railroad Company; thence southwesterly along said west line of said railroad land to the south line of Mayes' Addition to the Town of Dixon, as shown by official plat of said addition now on file in the Recorder's office of Solano County; thence east along said south line of said Mayes' Addition to the said east line of northeast quarter of section twenty- three; thence north along said east line of said quarter section to the south line of the land of Henry Smith ; thence east along

said south line of said Smith's land to the east line of the same; thence north along the said east line to the south line of the land of Ferguson and Coleman ; thence east along said south line of said Ferguson and Coleman's land to the east line of the same; thence north along said east line to a point six hundred and seventy-five feet south of the north line of the northeast quarter of section twenty-four; thence east to the east line of said northeast quarter of section twenty-four and thence north along said east line of said quarter section and continuing along the east line of the southwest quarter of section thirteen to the north line of the land of W. A. Dashiell; thence west along said north line of said Dashiell's land to the east line of the piece of land belonging to Peter Timm; thence north along said east line of said Timm's land to the north line of the same; thence west along said north line of said Timm's land to a point due south of where the east line of the California Pacific Railroad Company's land crosses the north line of the southwest quarter of section thirteen; thence due north to said north line of said southwest quarter of said section; thence due west to the place of beginning.

SEC. 3. The government of said town shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, to consist of five members, a Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal, who shall be elected by the qualified electors of said town on the first Monday of February, A. D. 1879, and shall hold office for one year; provided, that the first Board of Trustees, Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal shall be chosen in like manner, at a time to be designated by the County Judge of Solano County, which time shall not exceed sixty days after the passage of this Act, [NLT 30 May 1878] and four weeks notice thereof must be given, by publication in some newspaper published in said town, and the officers so chosen shall hold office until the first Monday in February, A. D. 1879, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. 4. Within five days after their election and qualification the Board of Trustees of said town shall meet and organize, by electing one of their members President, another Secretary, and another Treasurer. All orders drawn on the treasury must be signed by the President and Secretary.

SEC. 5. The Marshal of said town shall be ex officio Assessor and Collector, and shall receive such compensation for his services as the Board of Trustees may prescribe by ordinance.

SEC. 6. The President of the Board of Trustees shall be ex officio Street Commissioner.

But no member of the Board of Trustees shall receive any compensation for his services.

SEC. 7. The Board of Trustees shall have power to make such by-laws and ordinances, not inconsistent with the laws of this State or of the

United States, as they may deem necessary; to prevent and remove nuisances; to prohibit disorderly conduct; to provide for licensing public shows, lawful games, and business and mercantile establishments; to provide protection against fire ; to levy and collect, annually, a tax on all property in said town, not exceeding one-half of one per cent. of the assessment valuation thereof; to impose and collect a tax on dogs, not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents per annum, and to provide for the killing of said dogs if said tax is not paid ; to pass ordinances prohibiting drunkenness, profanity, vulgarity, indecent exposure of person, and vice of all kinds; to prevent the leaving of the carcass of any dead animal on any street, alley, or lane in said town ; to prevent the discharge of firearms of any kind within the town limits, except on public occasions ; to prevent the immoderate riding or driving of any animal on the highways in said town ; to prevent the cruel treatment of any useful animal; to compel the owners of property to remove any nuisances therefrom ; and to regulate generally the moral, sanitary, and public interests of the town.

SEC. 8. The Board of Trustees shall have power to lay out, open, widen, and improve any public street or alley in said town, and to regulate the width, grade, and construction of the same; to compel property owners to build and maintain sidewalks in front or on either side of their premises, when joining on any public street and when petitioned for Power of by parties representing a majority of frontage on such street, and to regulate the size and construction of the same; provided, that the improving or grading of any street must be done in accordance with the provisions of Section 4,409 of the Political Code; and provided further, that no tax in any one fiscal year levied for this purpose shall exceed the sum of fifty cents per front foot.

SEC. 9. The Board of Trustees, in the event of a tax being levied under this Act, and an assessment made, shall sit as a Board of Equalization for not less than two days, notice of which sitting shall be given by posting notice in three public places in said town for ten days next preceding the time fixed for such sitting, that the assessment roll is open for inspection, and that said Board will sit as a Board of Equalization to hear all complaints. They may require testimony and may increase or diminish the assessment of property or add any property that may have been omitted as may be just and equitable.

SEC. 10. The Board of Trustees shall be the judges of the qualification of their own members, and of all election returns, and shall determine contested elections of town officers. They may prescribe such rules and regulations governing themselves, not inconsistent with this Act, as may best suit their convenience, including the manner of drawing orders on the treasury, holding meetings provided, that they shall hold at



least one meeting every month and all other matters pertaining to the duties of their office.

SEC. 11. The Board of Trustees may provide for a poundmaster, and for the taking up and impounding of any horse, mule, jack, jennet, cattle, goats, sheep, or swine found at large within the town limits, and for the sale of the same by the Poundmaster, also for the reclaiming or redemption of any such animal or animals by the owner, if he appear and claim the same, and may, by proper ordinance, establish rules and laws governing all proceedings under this section.

SEC. 12. For the purposes of this Act, the Justices of the Peace of Silveyville Township are clothed with all the authority of authority of Police Judges under the general statutes of this State, and all moneys collected by them for a violation of any town law or ordinance, after deducting costs, must be turned over to the Board of Trustees for the use and benefit of the town.

SEC. 13. The Board of Trustees are prohibited from contracting any debt on the credit of the town.

SEC. 14. The Board of Trustees may provide for a chain-gang, and may cause parties who have been fined for the violation of any ordinance of the town to work therein on the public streets of said town, not exceeding one day for every two dollars of such fine until it has been paid.

SEC. 15. This Act shall take effect from and after its passage

JAMES A. JOHNSON

President of the Senate JAMES E. MURPHY,

Speaker pro tem of the Assembly.

Approved March 30, 1878 WILLIAM IRWIN, Governor

ISSUE NUMBER 25, dated Saturday, April 27, 1878

In pursuance of the provisions of the foregoing Act, I Jno. M. Gregory, County Judge of Solano county, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in the town of Dixon on Monday the 27th day of May, 1878; the polls for said election to be opened at one hour after sunrise and to be kept open until sunset of the said day; the qualifications of voters to be such as are prescribed in the Act hereinbefore set forth, and such qualified voters are to vote for and elect the following officers, to-wit:

Trustee.

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Treasurer

Assessor

Collector

Marshal

Said qualified voters will also vote on the question: "Shall the Town of Dixon be incorporated?"

The polling lace for said election will be at "the Public Hall," and the officers of election shall be: E.E. Leake, Inspector; W.R. Ferguson, Judge; A. Hochheimer, Judge.

Said order to be published for four weeks in the DIXON TRIBUNE, a newspaper published in said Town.

Given under my hand, this 25th day of April, 1878.

JNO. M. GREGORY,  
County Judge of Solano County.

#### Commentary

We know that some have entertained extravagant fears of the consequences of incorporation, but with mature reflection these forebodings have in many instances given place to a contrary opinion. It is seen that it is the natural thing for a town, to do when it has arrived at the size this one now has. Instead of its being an exception to the rule for a place of 1000 inhabitants to incorporate, the exception would be not to do it. There are very few towns of the importance of ours in the State which have not before now received the responsibilities and advantages of municipal government. At every session of the legislature additions are being made to the list of incorporated towns, and we seldom or never hear of a town asking to disincorporate. So general is it for villages of the population of Dixon to be incorporated, that we have several times observed strangers to be surprised when told that was not the case here. But this fact, instead of showing any lack of enterprise in the town of Dixon, is only characteristic of the steady and healthy manner of its growth.

If there are any who have not yet made up their minds how they will vote, we request them to consider the careful checks that have been introduced in the charter against extravagance, unwarranted improvements, and the contraction of debt. We request them to say if, with all these checks, it is not safe to try incorporation as an experiment at least, knowing that there can be no obstacle to disincorporation two years hence if a majority of the people, after trial, should be in favor of it.

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CITY POLITICS

The Labor Club Nominate a Full Ticket

A meeting of the Labor Club of Dixon was held last Saturday night at Public Hall, and nominations made for five Trustees and a Town Marshal.

The meeting being called to order the President stated its object -- to nominate a ticket for town officers.

Henry Smith objected saying he wanted to beat incorporation, not elect a core of officers under it.

Sec. Worth explain the situation, but not to Mr. Smith's satisfaction. The business went on, however, by a vote to proceed with nominations.

S. S. Benson was put in nomination and declared the choice of the club by acclamation, for Marshal.

Ten or a dozen persons were put in nomination for Trustees, including W. R. Ferguson, N. V[B]. S. Coleman, P. R. Willot, J. R. Love, Edward Weihe, George Frahm, W. S. Inman, Peter Smythe, Frank Tyler, William Vansant. Messrs. Coleman, Willot Love, and Weihe being present declined.

#### A WORD ABOUT TOWN OFFICERS.

The nomination of the right men for town officers is a matter interesting to all citizens equally. Those opposed to incorporation have as great a stake as any who favor it in putting up only proper persons. Being an affair of such general interest, and one purely local, there is nothing political about it; and the nomination of a straight party ticket by either Democrats or Republicans would have been universally regarded as entirely out of place.

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#### DIXON LABOR CLUB.

Last Saturday evening the Dixon Labor Club, to the surprise of almost everybody, held a meeting -- at which just 20 members out of a total of about 100 were present, and voted-- and nominated a full ticket for Trustees and Marshal. The five gentlemen named for Trustees are all quite unexceptionable candidates; they are fitted for the position, and we could not find fault with any of them. of the five, however only two are members of the club or known to be in sympathy with it. The other three are persons who were generally talked of for a citizens' ticket, which was intended to get up, representing both incorporation and anti-incorporation. Indeed, it is almost absolutely certain that they would have been nominated to that ticket. This fact was known to the leaders of the Labor Club; and it is currently believed that they had two objects in forestalling the nomination of these men -- first, to head off the movement for a citizens ticket; second to avail themselves of the popularity of the persons reference to and make a stronger ticket than if they had nominated one entirely of their own members. Their objects in nominating a ticket at all, we suppose no one doubts, was to make

political capital -- to have it go abroad that the Workingmen's party had carried Dixon. Now, if it would be wrong for the Republicans or the Democrats to make a partisan matter of this election, it is wrong for the Workingmen. If they had deliberated a little more, instead of acting so hastily, we believe they would have seen it in that light.

As before said, we have no objection to the gentleman nominated for Trustees, and what is done cannot be undone; but we felt called upon to enter this little protest against the way in which things have been conducted.

### THE CORPORATION ELECTION.

We know that some have entertained extravagant fears of the consequences of incorporation; but with mature reflection. These forebodings have in many instances, given place to a contrary opinion. It is seen that it is the natural thing for a town to do when it has arrived at the size this one now has. Instead of its being an exception to the rule for a place of 1000 inhabitants to incorporate, the exception would be not to do it. There are very few towns of the importance of ours in this State, which have not before now received the responsibilities and advantages of municipal government. At every session of the Legislature additions are being made to the list of incorporated towns and we seldom or never hear of a town asking to disincorporate. So general is it for villages of the population, of Dixon to be incorporated, that we have several times observed strangers to be surprised when told that was not the case here. But this fact, instead of showing any lack of enterprise in the town of Dixon is only characteristic of the steady and healthy manner of its growth.

If there are any who have not yet made up their minds, how they will vote, we request them to consider the careful checks that have been introduced in the charter against extravagance, unwarranted improvements, and the contraction of debt. We request them to say if, with all these checks, it is not safe to try the incorporation as an experiment, at least, knowing that there can be no obstacle to disincorporation two years hence, if a majority of the people, after trial, should be in favor of it.

29 May 1878 [Wednesday]

Tribune Issue of 1878/06/01 is missing from DPL Digital Archives so we had to get the election results from the Sacramento Daily Union.

Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 7, Number 86, 29 May 1878

Last Monday [Monday, May 27] the residents of Dixon, Solano County, had a very spirited election upon the proposition to incorporate

the town, and the question was decided in the affirmative by a majority of twenty-nine. The Trustees elected are W. S. Hinman, Peter Smith [Smythe], William VanSant, Frank Tyler and George Frahm. Thomas Barnes was chosen City Marshal.

The Tribune issue of 01 June 1878 is missing and the information it contained is, obviously, lost. We do know, however, that there were several important events that would have been reported in this missing issue and I will list them here for historical continuity:

The Corporation Election at which the Citizens of Dixon voted on the issue of whether or not their town should become an Incorporated municipality took place on Monday the 27th of May 1878;

At the same election mentioned above, the Officers of the Town Government were also elected; the Trustees and Town Marshal.

The first meeting of the Town Trustees was held on Tuesday the 28th of May at which organizational matters were discussed and bonding requirements established for the Marshal and Town Treasurer. Other organizational matters were undoubtedly discussed, but we'll never know. We know this is the date certain at which the first meeting of the Town Government was held because its date was established by the Articles of Incorporation;

The Meeting Date for the next meeting of the Town Trustees was established, for the following week on 1878/06/04 (Tuesday).

The Meeting Date for the next Municipal Election was established; A committee was established to find a suitable location for meetings of the Town Government, the Trustees, etc.

1878/05/28 (Tuesday)

#### **NOTES and OPINIONS: [HSM]**

The Tribune issue of 01 June 1878 is missing and the information it contained is, obviously, lost. We do know, however, that there were several important events that would have been reported in this missing issue and I will list them here for historical continuity:

1. The Corporation Election at which the Citizens of Dixon voted on the issue of whether or not their town should become an Incorporated municipality took place on Monday the 27th of May 1878;

2. At the same election mentioned above, the Officers of the Town Government were also elected; the Trustees and Town Marshal.

3. The first meeting of the Town Trustees was held on Tuesday the 28th of May at which organizational matters were discussed and bonding requirements established for the Marshal and Town Treasurer. Other organizational matters were undoubtedly discussed, but we'll never know. We know this is the date certain at which the first meeting of the Town Government was held because its date was established by the Articles of Incorporation;

4. The Meeting Date for the next meeting of the Town Trustees was established, for the following week on 1878/06/04 (Tuesday).
5. The Meeting Date for the next Municipal Election was established;
6. A committee was established to find a suitable location for meetings of the Town Government, the Trustees, etc.

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## First Trustee Meetings

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1878/05/28 (Tuesday)

### **FIRST MEETING OF THE TOWN OF DIXON BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

[This is the date certain of the first meeting of the Dixon Board of Trustees as the first town election at which the trustees were chosen took place the previous day on May 27, 1878].

[Although we currently have no documented record of this meeting, such as a Tribune article (the Tribune issue of 1 June 1878 being missing from the microfilms at the Dixon Public Library), or the actual minutes of such a meeting from the Official City Records, we do know with certainty from reports in the Dixon Tribune, that the second meeting of the Town Trustees took place the following week on 1878/06/04 (Tuesday).

It is known with certainty that the first election for Town Trustees, and also for or against incorporation, took place on 1878/05/27 (Monday).

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

[June 12, 2020. Notes From Hayward on inconsistent results by the Tribune in publishing the results of Municipal / City Council elections and meetings:

1. First, it must be stated that the Official Records of the Town/City of Dixon, records that should include all election notices and results, AND the minutes of all City Council meetings, contain no such records prior to February 1912. Thus, this means that our only source for records of City Council elections, and City Council Meeting Minutes, between the first election on 27 May, 1878 and 1912 are either the Dixon Tribune, or third-party sources.

2. Secondly, reporting by the Tribune of the first few City Council elections and Board meetings, starting in 1878, was good, meaning that the Tribune reported ALL Election notices, election results, and City Council (Board) Meetings for the first two or three years. However, and for reasons we shall never know at this late date, as time passed this reporting of Town/City, Municipal, events became infrequent, inconsistent OR nonexistent.

My personal suspicion is that the Tribune Editor simply didn't feel it was very important to be devoting space to these "mundane" Municipal news items. The Tribune and it's editor, were politically Democratic, and it is possible that the elected city governments were not always Democratic, so the Editor might have excluded such Republican political news, however, this is simply a guess on my

part. OR, the Editor simply didn't want to devote the space to reporting Municipal news that he felt was not of interest to his general readership.

There were periods, however, in which the reporting of Municipal matters was better than others, again, for reasons we don't understand, at this late date.

3. It is possible that I may have missed an important item or two of Municipal news, however, I considered Municipal Affairs, to be of major interest and thus I was very attentive in my searches.

4. The calendar year of 1879 there were no Municipal elections noted in the Tribune; in the calendar year 1879, the municipal election should have taken place on 5 or 12 April, however, all four Tribune issues for the month of April, 1879 are missing; in calendar year 1880 there were no municipal elections reported in the Tribune; in calendar year 1881, the Tribune published four notices of a municipal election to be held on 9 April, however, this election and its related results were not reported in the Tribune of April 14, but in the Tribune issue of 21 April 1881 there was a short paragraph presenting the results of the 9 April election.

It is known with certainty that the first election for Town Trustees and for or against incorporation, took place on 1878/05/27 (Monday) so it is most probable that the first meeting of the Board of Trustees took place the following day, Tuesday, 1878/05/28, since Board meetings were to be held on Tuesdays.]

[Although we currently have no documented record of this first meeting, such as a Tribune article (the Tribune issue of 1 June 1878 being missing from the Dixon Public Library), AND from the Official City / Town records, we do know with certainty from reports in the Dixon Tribune that the second meeting of the Town Trustees took place on 1878/06/04 (Tuesday).]

## **SECOND MEETING, DIXON BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

**June 8, 1878**

**Reported in the Dixon Tribune of 1878/06/08 (Saturday)**

**Town Trustees --- The Town Trustees held a second meeting Tuesday evening (1878/06/04), a full Board present. [This was the second meeting ever held of the Board of Trustees meaning that the first meeting ever held of the Board would have taken place on the 28th of May, 1878.]**

**The Marshall was sworn in and his bonds placed as follows: As Marshal, \$250.00; as Assessor, \$250.00; as Collector, \$1,500.00.**

**The Treasurer's bond was fixed at \$1,500.00.**

**Tyler, Smythe and Frahm were appointed a committee to secure a room for the meeting of the Board and place in it what furniture is necessary.**

**THIRD MEETING, DIXON BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

Reported in the Tribune edition of 1878/06/15 and as presented to the Board of Trustees on 1878/06/11 (Tuesday)

[This was the third meeting of the Board.]

**The First Petition**

The following petition was handed in to the Board of Town Trustees Tuesday evening and is the only one they have yet received: [HSM: I think it most curious that after all the Town efforts to incorporate, efforts that were largely based upon the need for City Government and sanitation, that the first petition brought before the Board of Trustees had to do with none of these items upon which incorporation was based, but was for another trivial reason altogether.]

**Petition Follows:**

Dixon, June 11th, 1878

To the Hon. the Board of Trustees of the City of Dixon:

The undersigned, your petitioner, would respectfully represent that he is a citizen of said city; that he is of average repute among his fellows; that he is a consistent member of the Workingmen's party; and that his occupation compels him to pass the place of business of one

A. Kirby, an Abolitionist of the most virulent kind; and that said Kirby allows no opportunity to pass when he can sin and cast reproach on the political opinions of your petitioner.

He [the petitioner] therefore prays that your honorable body may take such action by ordinance or otherwise as will protect him from such insults and contumely. Otherwise, he will be compelled to take the law into his own hands, which he is reluctant to do, as the said abolitionist Kirby has a family depending on him for support.

Very resp't.  
J.H. Worth

**Town Government.**

A room in the Coleman's Building, adjoining the Palace Hotel has been rented at \$5.00 per month by the Board of Trustees for a meeting room. It has been fitted up with table, chairs, carpet, etc., and may properly be known as the Town Hall.

[When these purchases and activities actually took place is not known but the warrants paying the below expenses weren't approved until 1878/08/06]



One of the first ordinances passed by the Town Trustees ought to be for the purpose of levying a license tax on itinerant peddlers and Chinese venders of fruit and vegetables.

Bonds. -- T. B. Barnes has prepared his official bonds, with the following persons as sureties: Bond as Collector-- H. A. Ross and J. S. Garnet, sureties, each in the sum of \$1,500; as Assessor, R. H. Brown and M. Carpenter, each in \$250; as Marshal, W. D. Ferguson and H. Goeffert, each in \$250.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Town Trustees met in adjourned session Tuesday [1878/06/11] evening, a full Board present. The marshal and Treasurer reported that they were not yet ready to present their bonds. Messrs. Tyler, Smythe and Vansant were appointed a committee to report an order of business for the regular sessions of the Board. A couple of bills were presented and laid over for further consideration. A petition from J.H. Worth excited some cachiliatory manifestations from the members, but was quietly ignored. The subject of ordinances for various purposes was discussed at length, and it was reported that copies of the Woodland and Vallejo ordinances had been received; but nothing was done in the premises save to defer the matter until another meeting to be held Saturday.

[This was most probably the third meeting of the Board.]

[The fact that the Board met in an adjourned session indicates they had met previously and that the meeting on this date, 1878/06/11 (Tuesday), wasn't the very first meeting of the Board. Further research is obviously required.] [Elva has just found in the Tribune reporting that the second meeting took place on 1878/06/04 which seems to say the first Board meeting took place on 1878/05/28 (Tuesday).]

#### **Not Yet a City.**

Although Dixon is now incorporated, it is not yet a city, as many suppose. Section 4356 of the Political Code, to which Mr. A. J. Buckles, Attorney, has called our attention reads as follows:

"Every subdivision of a County not exceeding an extent 6 mi.<sup>2</sup> with not less than 2,000 inhabitants, with its metes and bounds fixed and defined, and declared by active Legislature to be a municipal corporation, is a city with the powers conferred by their title. [The reference to the land surveying system "metes and bounds is curious as the official surveying system in 1878, west of the Mississippi, was known as "The Public Land Surveying System: PLSS. I suspect it is a cut-and-paste error from an Eastern document.]

So it requires 2,000 inhabitants to be a city, and that is rather more than Dixon can boast of at present. At a recent meeting of the Trustees something was said about the application of the general provisions in the Code under the head of government of cities; but the term city being defined as above, it is at least a question whether those sections of the Code have any bearing in our case at all. They do not if a town may be a municipal corporation without being a city. It would be well for the Trustees to give the subject their attention.

June 22, 1878

**From Official Dixon Town Records**

Following are extractions made by Alan and Hayward when they surveyed the official Town / City records in 2009. These records include Minutes, Ordinances, Resolutions, etc. Only two records were found dated prior to 1912 so most of the early Town records have been lost.

[This is the FIRST documented record from the Official Dixon Records of City Council Minutes.]

Ordinances **1 through 6** all bear the 1878/06/15 (Saturday) date and these Ordinances were the first order of business as mandated by the **Incorporation Statute**.

These Ordinances were reported in the Tribune edition of 1878/06/22 (Saturday)

1878/07/06

**No Flaw.** --It being reported by some that an error in the Dixon incorporation act --by which a section was designated incorrectly in describing the limits --would be a serious defect, the Trustees took the trouble to obtain an opinion on the subject from good legal authority. It was submitted in writing at considerable length, and is, to the effect that the error does not vitiate the act, and is not a defect of any moment.

1878/07/20

**Local Items.**

The city treasury is already well plastered over with claims for services incidental to use starting the corporate government, [incorporation] the whole amounting to as much as will be received from licenses for this quarter, probably. The members of the Board stated in reply to the question what will be done with the money collected that they are more puzzled to know how they will make it go around.

Amends election law; requires persons voting in incorporated cities to give Street and residence; prohibits voting by certificates; authorizes Boards of Supervisors to order re-registration of voters; also authorizes precinct registers instead of Great registers.

1878/08/17

**WORK OF THE LATE LEGISLATURE.**

General and Special Acts, Amendments to Codes, and Resolutions.

A board of health of five members must be established in every incorporated town or city; at least one member shall be a practicing physician; the board has general supervisory powers and must report to the State Board of Health.

1878/11/09

An order for \$40.50, payable February 1, was directed to be drawn in favor of A. B. Nye. [This is for publishing notice of election, including charter in full, for four weeks previous to incorporation election last May. The bill, at regular legal advertising rates, amounted to \$67.50, but the publisher of the Tribune voluntarily threw off 40%, out of consideration for the low state of the town's funds.

After being presented, the bill was postponed from time to time by the Board, and finally ordered to be paid next February, as stated above. We understand some persons have undertaken to criticize the Board for paying this bill, but why we cannot imagine. Is it wrong that, after waiting nearly a year, the publisher should receive 60% of what he is honestly entitled to?. The work was ordered done by the Act of Legislature incorporating the town. We may add that we advertised the town ordinances at a rate which barely paid the cost of setting the type, and thought we were doing a very liberal thing. We advocated the incorporation of the town honestly, and had no desire to make money out of it. We venture to say we have acted more generously towards the town in this respect than any other newspaper in the county would have done-though such action does not seem to be very well appreciated. We think the facts above stated ought to make those who now grumble at the Trustees for doing as the barest justice, ashamed of themselves-if they are capable of getting up such a sensation.- Ed. Tribune.]

Messrs. Schmidt, Frazer, Hohman and Gruening appeared before the Board and asked to have their liquor licenses remitted or at least reduced. No action taken. Report of Marshall Barnes received and accepted. It presents the following funds: licenses sold, 41-amounting to \$176; dogtags, 3-\$7.50. Total collections, \$183.50. Board adjourned.

1879/02/03

February 1879 [Monday]

Second, mandated, Election Day for Dixon Board of Trustees. Second Town Election was mandated by order issued on the 25th day of April, 1878. JNO. M. GREGORY, County Judge of Solano County.

1877 - 1878 California Statutes, Chapter CCCCLXII, SEC. 3: The Government of said town shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, to consist of five members, a Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal, who shall be elected by the qualified electors of said town on the first Monday of February, A. D. 1879. [Monday, 1879/02/03].

[This is the SECOND Board of Trustees as the FIRST Board of Trustees was elected and qualified as follows: "that the first Board of Trustees, Treasurer, Assessor, Collector, and Marshal shall be chosen in like manner, at a time to be designated by the County Judge of Solano County, which time shall not exceed sixty days after the passage of this Act, [not later than 30 May 1878] and four weeks notice thereof must be given, by publication in some newspaper published in said town, and the officers so chosen shall hold office until the first Monday in February, A. D. 1879 [1879/02/04], and until their successors are elected and qualified."]

So, election of the FIRST Board of Trustees is authorized and ordered by the State Legislature as part of the Dixon Incorporation Statute and while this FIRST Board is establishing a working City Government, the County Judge of Solano County, within sixty days of 30 April, 1878 [NLT 1879/04/29], must order an election of the SECOND Board with such SECOND election to be held on "the first Monday of February, A. D. 1879". [Monday, 1879/02/03].

#### **DIXON [Description]**

The town of Dixon, situated on the California Pacific Railroad, 20 miles from Sacramento and 75 from San Francisco, is a thriving place of 1,000 inhabitants. It is located in one of the richest the most prosperous farming districts in the State of California, where the land is mostly held in small tracts and a majority of the farmers are well-to-do. The town has been in existence since 1868 and has grown steadily in size and importance, without any inflation or speculative excitement

There is not a town in California whose prosperity rests on a sounder foundation, or which is assured of a better future. In 1878 the town was incorporated under a charter that forbids the creation of debt or taxation above descents on the hundred dollars; it has good streets, good schools, numerous churches, an intelligent and enterprising class

of citizens, and almost every other advantage for residents and business. The place is very healthy. For a directory of the businesses of the town see the advertising columns of this paper, which is the only one published in Dixon, having been established in 1874.

10 January 1880

**AMENDMENT TO ORIGINAL TOWN CHARTER.**

The Tribune has already mentioned that the Trustees had requested Town Attorney Wendell to draft a new charter, or suitable amendments to the present one. It was the impression of the Trustees that the charter would be amended in the old way -by special act of the Legislature; but Section 6 of article X of the State constitution seems to forbid such legislation, and to require all organization of town governments to be by Gen. laws. The section reads as follows:

Corporations for municipal purposes shall not be created by special laws; but the Legislature, by Gen. laws, shall provide for the incorporation, organization, and classification in proportion to population, of cities and towns, which laws may be altered, amended, or repealed. Cities and towns heretofore organized or incorporated may become organized under such general laws whenever a majority of the elect doors voting at a general election shall so determine, and shall organize in conformity there with; and cities and towns heretofore or hereafter organized, and all charters thereof framed or adopted by authority of this Constitution, shall be subject to and controlled by Gen. laws.

If municipal corporations cannot be created by special laws, of course additional grants of power requiring amendments of existing charters cannot be made by such laws. As we understand the intention of Section 6, the Legislature will pass a general act which will either contain full models of working charters for towns of different sizes, one of which can be adopted by the town of Dixon by vote of its citizens; or the general act will merely lay down certain restrictions which every town will have to follow, but may each arrange the details of its charter to suit itself. The latter course will probably be adopted; but in either case nothing can be done without amending our charter until the Legislature has shown its hand.

1880/06/19

The incorporated town of Dixon levies no tax for the specific purpose of repairing streets or roads, though it does more or less work on the streets; but if a specific town tax is necessary to prevent the collection of the County tax, it would be well if next year it should be levied, for the county road district fund can be expended only on county

roads, and in consequence some of our streets that have not been made county roads heavy yawned with mud-holes four years, and they have not all been filled yet.

December 22, 1883

**REORGANIZATION AND REVISIONS TO ORIGINAL TOWN CHARTER.  
ELECTION NOTICE**

**To The Electors Of The Town Of DIXON**

Whereas, the town of Dixon was incorporated prior to January 1, 1880, under the laws of the State of California, and

Whereas, a Petition has been filed by more than one-fifth of the qualified electors of said town of Dixon, as shown by the vote of the last Municipal Election, in and for said Town, asking that said Town of Dixon shall become organized under the general laws of this State, relating to Municipal Corporations of the class to which said Town of Dixon belongs to-wit: class VI:

Section 2. Commencing at a point on the north line of the southeast quarter of section 14, township seven north, range one east, where the land of John S. Mays and Thomas Dixon intersect, running thence due south to the section line dividing sections 14 and 23; thence west along said section line to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 23; thence south along the west line of said northeast quarter of section 23, a distance of 400 feet; thence due east to the west line of the land of the California Pacific Railroad Company; thence southwesterly along said west line of said railroad land to the south line of Mayes Addition to the town of Dixon, as shown by official plat of said addition now on file in the Recorder's office of Solano County; thence east along said south line of said Mayes Addition to the said east line of northeast quarter of section 20-3; thence north along said east line of said quarter section to the south line of the land of Henry Smith; thence east along said south line of said Smith's land to the east line of the same; thence north along the said east line to the south line of the land of Ferguson and Coleman; thence east along said south line of said Ferguson and Coleman's land to the east line of the same; thence north along said east line to a .675 feet south of the north line of the northeast quarter of section 20-4; thence east to the east line of said northeast quarter of section 20-4; thence north along said east line of said quarter section and continuing along the east line of the southwest quarter of section 13 to the north line of the land of W. A. Dashiell; thence west along said north line of said Dashiell's land to the east line of the piece of land belonging to Peter Timm; thence north along said east line of Timm's land to the north line of the same; thence west along said north line of said Timm's land to a point due south of where the east line of the California Pacific Railroad

Company's land crosses the north line of the southwest quarter of section 13; thence due north to said north line of the southwest quarter of section 13; thence due north to said north line of said southwest quarter of said section; thence due west to the place of beginning.

it is therefore ordered that the fourth day of February 1884, is fixed as the day for the Elect doors of Dixon to express by the elective franchise, whether the said town of Dixon shall be reorganized under the general laws of the State of California, relating to Municipal Corporations under the VI class. the Collector shall vote upon said proposition by placing upon their ballots, the word "For reorganization," or "Against reorganization," or words equivalent thereto.

The place of election shall be at the polling place appointed for the election of Municipal officers, and the polls shall be opened and closed and the ballots canvassed at the same time and in the same manner prescribed, under the General Election Laws of the State.

It is ordered that this notice be published at least four weeks before the day of election in the Dixon Tribune, as a newspaper published in the town of Dixon.

HERMAN EPPINGER

President Board of Trustees.

In. B. S. Coleman, Sec. Board of Trustees.

Dated at Dixon, December 19, 1883

#### ORDINANCE NUMBER 29

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Dixon, Solano County, State of California, ordain as follows:

Section I.--it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to construct or erect any frame or wooden building in whole or in part, in that portion of the Town of Dixon, bounded on the west by Jackson Street, and Central Pacific Railroad; on the north by C Street; on the east by Second Street; and on the south by Mayes Street, and being what is known as the fire limits of said town, without the person or persons desiring to such a building having first obtained permission from the Board of Trustees to do so, and any person or persons having erected, such a building without having received such permission, will be compelled to remove the same.

Section II.--All persons violating this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not exceeding \$300 for each and every offense so, committed.

HERMAN EPPINGER

President Board of Trustees.

N. B. S. COLEMAN, Secretary Board of Trustees. Dixon, December 4,  
1883

## **REORGANIZATION AND REVISIONS TO ORIGINAL TOWN CHARTER.**

1883/12/29

### **REORGANIZATION AND REVISIONS TO ORIGINAL TOWN CHARTER. ELECTION NOTICE**

To The Electors Of The Town Of DIXON

Whereas, the town of Dixon was incorporated prior to January 1, 1880, under the laws of the State of California, and

Whereas, a Petition has been filed by more than one-fifth of the qualified electors of said town of Dixon, as shown by the vote of the last Municipal Election, in and for said Town, asking that said Town of Dixon shall become organized under the general laws of this State, relating to Municipal Corporations of the class to which said Town of Dixon belongs to-wit: class VI: Section 2. Commencing at a point on the north line of the southeast quarter of section 14, township seven north, range one east, where the land of John S. Mayes and Thomas Dickson intersect, running thence due south to the section line dividing sections 14 and 23; thence west along said section line to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 23; thence south along the west line of said northeast quarter of section 23, a distance of 400 feet; thence due east to the west line of the land of the California Pacific Railroad Company; thence southwesterly along said west line of said railroad land to the south line of Mayes Addition to the town of Dixon, as shown by official plat of said addition now on file in the Recorder's office of Solano County; thence east along said south line of said Mayes Addition to the said east line of northeast quarter of section 20-3; thence north along said east line of said quarter section to the south line of the land of Henry Smith; thence east along said south line of said Smith's land to the east line of the same; thence north along the said east line to the south line of the land of Ferguson and Coleman; thence east along said south line of said Ferguson and Coleman's land to the east line of the same; thence north along said east line to a .675 feet south of the north line of the northeast quarter of section 20-4; thence east to the east line of said northeast quarter of section 20-4; thence north along said east line of said quarter section and continuing along the east line of the southwest quarter of section 13 to the north line of the land of W. A. Dashiell; thence west along said north line of said Dashiell's land to the east line of the piece of land belonging to Peter Timm; thence north along said east line of Timm's land to the north line of the same; thence west along said north line of said



Timm's land to a point due south of where the east line of the California Pacific Railroad Company's land crosses the north line of the southwest quarter of section 13; thence due north to said north line of the southwest quarter of section 13; thence due north to said north line of said southwest quarter of said section; thence due west to the place of beginning.

it is therefore ordered that the fourth day of February 1884, is fixed as the day for the electors of Dixon to express by the elective franchise, whether the said town of Dixon shall be reorganized under the general laws of the State of California, relating to Municipal Corporations under the VI class.

The Collector shall vote upon said proposition by placing upon their ballots, the word "For reorganization," or "Against reorganization," or words equivalent thereto. The place of election shall be at the polling place appointed for the election of Municipal officers, and the poles shall be opened and closed and the ballots canvassed at the same time and in the same manner prescribed, under the General Election Laws of the State.

It is ordered that this notice be published at least four weeks before the day of election in the Dixon Tribune, as a newspaper published in the town of Dixon.

HERMAN EPPINGER

President Board of Trustees.

In. B. S. Coleman, Sec. Board of Trustees.

Dated at Dixon, December 19, 1883

1884/01/26

#### THE PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION

On our editorial page will be found the general charter adopted by the last Legislature for cities and towns of the sixth class. The question on its adoption or rejection will be determined by an election to be held on 14 February. Voters as a rule reject anything they do not thoroughly understand. The provisions of this charter are very plain and explicit, and easily comprehended, so that every person desiring to vote intelligently, can do so. Some of the citizens of Dixon have expressed their intention to vote against it, because in the matter of taxation, too much authority is conferred upon the Board of Trustees. Section 862 provides that in no year shall the tax levy exceed the sum of \$0.65 on each \$100. The length of the charter does not detract from its merits. As it is a general law, it is necessarily long, in order to meet all the local requirements of cities and towns throughout the state. The section above quoted is the most important in the chapter, and should be studied carefully. Every city and town of the sixth class that has so far voted on the question, has adopted

the charter almost unanimously. In our opinion, it is a great improvement on the original charter, and we hope to see it adopted.

### ELECTION NOTICE

To the electors of the town of Dixon. notice is hereby given that the annual

Election for Town officers will be held on Monday the fourth day of February, 1884, at which election, five Trustees and a Town Marshall will be voted for. Polling place will be at the meeting room of the Town Trustees on A street, opposite the City Hotel.

Inspector E.E. Leake; Judges, Joel Davenport and George Frahm. All voters must be on the Great Register of Solano County and have resided in the Town of Dixon over 30 days. Also at the same election, the electors will vote on the question of "For" or "Against" the reorganization of the Town of Dixon, under The New County Government Bill; theme qualifications as to voters as in voting for Town officers.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

HERMAN EPPINGER, Pres.

N. B. S. Coleman, Sec.

1884/02/09

February 09, 1884

The New Charter was adopted on Monday [04 February 1884], by a very decisive majority, the vote standing 86 for and 35 against. Under the provisions of the new law, there will be a municipal election on the second Monday of April [1884?], at which time five Trustees, a Clerk, Treasurer, and Marshal are to be voted for. At the first meeting, the Trustees will so classify themselves that three of them will go out of office at the end of two years, and two of them at the end of four years. Thereafter, the term of office for a trustee will be four years, but the Clerk, Treasurer, and Marshal are elected every two years. Hereafter, all the Road poll taxes collected within the corporation, will go into the street fund, and not into the county treasury, as heretofore.

One of the principal objections urged against the adoption of the New Charter was the fact that it increased the tax limit from \$0.50 to \$0.65 on the hundred dollars. We are confident the Board of Trustees will overcome this objection by keeping the tax levy below the first named figure.

All questions on the legality of the incorporation of Dixon being now settled, it is in order for every good citizen to act in harmony with the authorities in their effort to cleanse and beautify the city, improve our streets, and enforce all ordinances needed for good government. If a spirit of enterprise is manifested by our businessmen, and the trustees are discrete and economical, we are confident that one year of

government under the New Charter, will satisfy those who opposed and fought it strenuously, that its adoption has redounded to the general good of every citizen in Dixon. There may be some objectionable features in it, but it should be remembered that it is a general law, applicable to all cities and towns of the sixth class, in the state, and it is the very best that could be done under the circumstances.

The municipal officers to be elected next April, [1884?] ought to be selected with great care. Three of the Trustees, and the Clerk, Treasurer, and Marshal will serve for two years. Two of the Trustees will serve for four years. They are clothed with authority, which, if properly exercised, will make the city government, a great blessing. If, however, this authority is abused, much evil may be accomplished in that length of time. The TRIBUNE is interested in a good strong government, economically and wisely administered. Every citizen in Dixon is alike interested. There is but one way in which this can be insured. A public meeting should be called at an early date, and the matter is of sufficient importance to call out every citizen who feels an interest in the success and prosperity of Dixon. In this way only, can a full and fair expression of public opinion be ascertained. It will ensure the selection of a thoroughly representative body of solid and influential business men.

#### The Municipal Election.

The election for municipal officers last Monday, resulted in the election of Herman Eppinger, N. B. S. Coleman, Steve Brinkerhoff, Jule Prichard, and George Cadman as Trustees, and W. C. Rhem as Town Marshall. So far as Town Trustees were concerned, but little interest was manifested as it was generally understood that in the event of the adoption of the New Charter, the new board would go out of office in April. For Town Marshall, there was a spirited contest, the vote standing: W. C. Rhem 93, Irvin Allison 20, scattering 5. The greatest interest centered on the result of the vote on the New Charter, and but for this element in the election, the vote would have been very light. The old Board of Trustees met Tuesday, and canvass the returns with the above result.