

[No. 102, A.]

[Published April 17, 1885.]

## CHAPTER 421.

AN ACT relating to town insurance companies, and amendatory of section 2, chapter 48, of the laws of 1881.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1927, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1927. Any number of persons, not less than twenty-five, residing in the same town, or adjoining towns, not exceeding twenty in number, who, collectively, shall own property of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars in value, which they desire to have insured, may form themselves into a corporation, for mutual insurance against loss or damage by fire or lightning, by complying with the following conditions, namely: They shall sign articles of organization, which shall be substantially in the following form: The undersigned, residents of the towns below named, and owners of more than twenty-five thousand dollars worth of property, which we desire to insure, do hereby associate for the purpose of forming a mutual fire insurance corporation, to do such insurance in the towns of (here insert the names of each town in which such corporation proposes to do business, and the names of the counties in which they are situated), under the provisions of sections 1927 to 1941 inclusive, of the revised statutes of this state. The name of such corporation shall be the —— (give the name at length). The officers shall be a board of directors of —— (insert the number, not less than five nor more than nine), a president, secretary and treasurer, and such others as may be provided for in the by-laws of such corporation, and the office of such corporation shall be in the town of ——, in the county of ——. The following named persons shall constitute the first board of directors, and shall hold their respective offices for one year, and until their successors are elected (here insert the names).

Relating to town insurance companies.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto sub-

scribed our names, this —— day of ——, A. D. 18—.

Such articles of organization shall be subscribed by at least twenty-five persons, residents of the towns therein named, and who are owners of at least twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of property, which shall be insured by such corporation, and when so signed shall be filed and recorded in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the office of such corporation is to be, or is situated, and a copy of the by-laws of such corporation shall, at the same time, be filed in said office, with the names of the officers of said corporation, and thereupon the persons subscribing said articles, and such as shall afterwards become insured thereby, shall be a corporation by the name mentioned in said articles, with the usual powers, and subject to usual duties and liabilities of a corporation for the purposes hereinafter mentioned. The name of every such corporation shall embrace the name of the town in which the office of the corporation is located; but in case any of the towns embraced in such corporation shall adjoin a city or village, the office thereof may be located in such city or village, and in such case the name shall embrace the name of one or more of such adjoining towns. And the subsequent division of the territory of the towns mentioned in the articles of organization into new towns, shall not impair any power, duty or liability of such corporation.

What property shall not be insured.

SECTION 2. Section 1931, of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 134, 1880, section 1, chapter 48, 1881, chapter 187, 1882, and section 2, chapter 189, 1883, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1931. No such corporation shall insure any property out of the town or towns in which said corporation is located; provided, that any such corporation at its annual meeting may, by a majority vote of the members present, authorize its directors to insure any farm property or detached dwelling house and contents, in any adjoining town or towns, or in any incorporated city or village which is located in any adjoining towns in which such town insurance corporation is located; provided, such farm property or dwelling or contents shall be detached at least one hundred feet from exposure. No such corporation

shall insure any property other than detached dwellings and their contents, farm buildings and their contents, live stock in possession or running at large, farm products on premises and farming implements; provided, that no loss of any live stock insured by such corporation shall be recoverable, if occurring while such stock was kept or confined in any building which such corporation could not insure under this section. But such corporation, at its annual meeting, may, by a majority of all the votes cast by its members present, authorize its directors to insure country stores and their contents, school-houses, churches, town and society halls, country hotels and water-mills, but such risks shall not exceed twenty-five hundred dollars in any one case.

SECTION 3. Section 1938, of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 48, 1881, chapter 205, 1882, and chapter 168, 1883, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1938. The secretary of every such corporation shall annually prepare a statement, showing its condition on the thirty-first day of December, preceding its annual meeting, which shall contain the names of all persons then insured, the amount insured by each policy, the whole number of policies issued, the whole number then in force, the aggregate amount then insured and the aggregate amount of each class of insured property, the amount of losses paid during the year, the whole amount of losses paid by the corporation since its organization, the whole amount insured since its organization, the amount of losses sustained and unpaid, if any, and all such other matters pertaining to the interest of such corporation as by the by-laws he may be required to report upon. The treasurer of every such corporation shall annually prepare a statement of its financial condition on the thirty-first day of December, preceding its annual meeting, showing amount on hand January 1, preceding, amount received during the year by premiums, amount received by assessments Nos. —, amount received by any other sources, amount paid for losses, amount paid for expenses, detailed statement of every item of expenses and amount of cash on hand. Such statements or so much thereof as said corporation at its annual meeting may, by resolution or other-

Secretary to  
annually pre-  
pare a state-  
ment.

wise, agree upon, shall be read to the members of such corporation at their annual meeting, and entered at length upon the records and within fifteen days after such annual meeting, shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which such corporation has its office, and certified copies thereof, transmitted to the commissioner of insurance.

Adjoining territory may be attached.

**SECTION 4.** Section 1940, of the revised statutes as amended by chapter 211, 1880, and chapter 260, 1881, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1940. Any such corporation, and any town insurance corporation, heretofore organized and now existing under any law of this state, relating to town insurance corporations, may attach any adjoining town or towns as part of its territory, and in which it may hereafter do business; provided, the town or towns so attached, together with those already within its jurisdiction, shall not exceed twenty towns, except in cases where all towns embraced by the corporation, shall be within the same county. No town or towns shall be so attached except by a resolution adopted by the vote of two-thirds of all the shares of stock present and voting thereon, at some annual meeting thereof, or at some special meeting called for said purpose, of which at least ten days' notice shall be given by advertising in some newspaper published in that county, and by posting said notice in at least three of the most public places in said town or towns, where such insurance companies are doing business, and by filing a copy of such resolution, duly certified by its secretary, in the office of the county clerk of the county in which its office is located; provided, nothing in this act contained shall affect companies already doing business in towns outside of the county in which such company is organized.

Law affecting all town insurance companies.

**SECTION 5.** Section 1941, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1941. All town insurance corporations heretofore organized under any law shall be deemed to be organized under and governed by the provisions of the laws of this state; and such existing corporations, shall, without re-organization, be authorized to insure in such town or towns as they may have heretofore effected insurance in, not exceeding in all twenty adjoining towns, but each

such corporation desiring to extend its territory beyond the town or towns in which it was originally organized, shall, within six months after the adoption of these statutes, file in the office of the county clerk of the county in which its office is located, a declaration signed by its president and secretary, and duly acknowledged by them, naming the town or towns in which it has heretofore transacted the business of insurance, and declaring its intention to continue its business in such towns thereafter.

SECTION 6. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed. Repealing section.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 11, 1885.

[No. 89, A.]

[Published April 18, 1885.]

## CHAPTER 422.

AN ACT to amend chapter 200, of the laws of 1882, relating to the punishment of a father for abandonment of his children, and of a husband for abandonment of his wife.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows :*

SECTION 1. Chapter 200, of the laws of 1882, is hereby amended, so as to read as follows: If any parent shall willfully abandon his or her child, or children, or either of them, leaving them, or either of them, in a destitute condition, or being of sufficient ability, shall refuse or neglect to provide for his or her child, or children, or either of them, such parent shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail, not less than thirty days, nor more than one year, or by fine, not exceeding five hundred dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court; provided, that the wife shall be a competent witness in all such cases, as provided in this section, to testify for or against her husband. Penalty for neglect of children.