

### Village Legislation.

The charter of the village of Grand Rapids constituted a board of seven trustees, who were empowered to elect a president, and who were to be "a body corporate and politic under the name of The President and Trustees of the Village of Grand Rapids; to have a common seal; empowered to purchase, hold, sell and convey real estate for village purposes, and given generally all such powers of control and management over streets, fire and police and municipal affairs as are usually exercised by similar corporations." The charter contained clauses regulating the manner of proceeding in the taking of property for street uses and the levy and collection of taxes for village uses. The first village election was held at the court house, Monday, May 1, 1838, when the highest number of votes cast was 141, for Louis Campau for trustee. The first meeting of the board to organize was held at the office of Charles I. Walker May 14, 1838, when Henry C. Smith was chosen president. Village by-laws were adopted May 21. Among their provisions were prohibitions of horse racing, of discharging firearms, and of ball alleys, or gaming houses within the village; also of liquor selling at retail except by licensed tavern keepers. The first set of village officers were elected at this board meeting. In June ditches were authorized to drain the marsh in the region of Fountain, Greenwich (now Ionia), Division and Lyons streets. Citizens were empowered to put a well at the Monroe street corner in Greenwich (Ionia) street, with a platform and pump. July 10 six acres of ground were purchased, on credit, of James Ballard, for a cemetery—price \$300—the beginning of the Fulton Street Cemetery. An order was passed for the opening of Kent street to Monroe street; the proposed improvement has never been consummated. In September it was discovered that the village was bankrupt; there were no funds, and corporation notes (one and two dollar bills) to the amount of \$300 were issued. By resolution of the board, these were made receivable for taxes and all dues to the corporation; some of them remained in circulation eight or ten years.

In May, 1839, after the second election, a committee was appointed to settle with ex-Treasurer Charles I. Walker, who reported that there had been no receipts, no taxes having been