

NEW STOCK LAW FOR JACKSON CO.

The following act introduced by Mr. Wike has passed both houses of the General Assembly.

A bill to be entitled an act to create a system of exclusive stock law boundaries by townships by vote of the citizens thereof for Jackson county and to reduce taxes.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That upon petition of a majority of the qualified voters of any township in said county, it shall be the duty of the Board of Commissioners for said county to and they shall immediately order a special election to be held in such township (the whole of such township as its boundaries may then be constituted) on the question of making such township as a whole an exclusive stock law boundary, and said Commissioners shall in said order fix a time and place within such township for holding such election, which time shall not be more than sixty days after the entry of said order, and shall appoint one registrar and two judges for such election and in connection therewith shall be empowered with and shall do and perform the duties of the County Board of Elections, and the law governing the elections of members of the General Assembly of North Carolina shall be the machinery for holding such exclusive stock law election. That the qualified voters favoring such exclusive stock law, shall at said election vote a ticket with the words "Exclusive Stock Law" written or printed thereon, and those opposing shall vote a ticket with the words "No Stock Law" written or printed thereon; that the registrars and judges shall count and canvass the vote and report the same in writing by one of its members to the Register of Deeds for said county where the same shall be recorded on the minutes of the Board of Commissioners. If a majority of the vote cast is in favor of exclusive stock law, the Board of Commissioners shall so find and declare and enter their findings upon said minutes, which findings shall be made at their first meeting after such election, and the said Commissioners shall thereupon make an order declaring the boundaries of such township an exclusive stock law boundary.

Section 2. That if at such election a majority of the votes cast are for exclusive stock law, then from the date of the order aforesaid of the Board of Commissioners, the boundaries shall be and the same are hereby constituted and made a lawful fence and in law such township shall by its boundaries thus enclosed be a lawful fence and it shall not be necessary for the said township thus voting to build any fence around its said boundaries, or any part thereof, but it shall thereafter be and constitute an exclusive stock law boundary under and by virtue of this act, and it shall be the duty of the Board of Commissioners for said county and they shall forthwith and at said meeting declare the boundaries of such township to be a lawful fence for all the purposes thereof, and enter said order upon their minutes.

Section 3. That thereafter it shall be unlawful for any live stock to run at large off of the lands of its owner in such township, and chapter 35 of the Revisal of 1905 as amended shall govern the penalties and rules for impounding and shall apply as against all live stock running at large therein and off of the lands of its owner.

Section 4. That thereafter no tax, whatever, shall be levied in such township for maintenance, construc-

tion or repair of stock law fences; but a tax may be levied to liquidate any valid, legal registered claims then existing against said boundary or any part of said boundary; that existing stock law fences within such township may be sold by order of the commissioners and applied toward liquidating any such debts, except such stock law fences as now enclose fields and pastures.

Provided, that for Barker's Creek, Cullowhee, Dillsboro, Green's Creek, Qualla, Savannah, Sylva and Webster township in said county a petition of a majority of the qualified voters therein shall not be necessary, but it is hereby enacted that such an election be and the same is hereby called to be held in said township at the regular polling places therefor on the ninth day of December, nineteen hundred and thirteen, for which the commissioner shall at their regular meeting in November, nineteen hundred and thirteen, appoint registrars and judges, and this act shall apply in all respects to such election.

Provided, further, that if at any such election in any township in the said county a majority of the votes cast shall be for "No Stock Law," then such election shall not have the effect to destroy, repeal, impair or change the status of any existing boundary of stock law within or so far as partly within said township.

Section 5. That an "Exclusive Stock Law" boundary is one established under this act and including at least the whole of a township or may include the whole of two or more contiguous townships, the outside boundaries of which shall be the boundary of such exclusive stock law and no exclusive stock law boundary, whether composed of all of one township or all of two or more or many townships forming a contiguous boundary, shall be required to build any fence, but the boundaries of an exclusive stock law established hereunder shall at all times be and constitute a lawful fence therefor and no stock shall be permitted to run at large off the lands of the owner within an exclusive stock law boundary and all exclusive stock law boundaries established hereunder shall be and the same when established shall be and are hereby incorporated as such, and the whole of any contiguous township, whether coming into the exclusive boundary at the same time or at a later date, shall, when it comes in under this act be and constitute a part of the incorporated exclusive stock law boundary with all the benefits hereof and no tax for the construction, repair or maintenance of fences shall be levied in any exclusive stock law boundary.

Section 6. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

Section 7. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

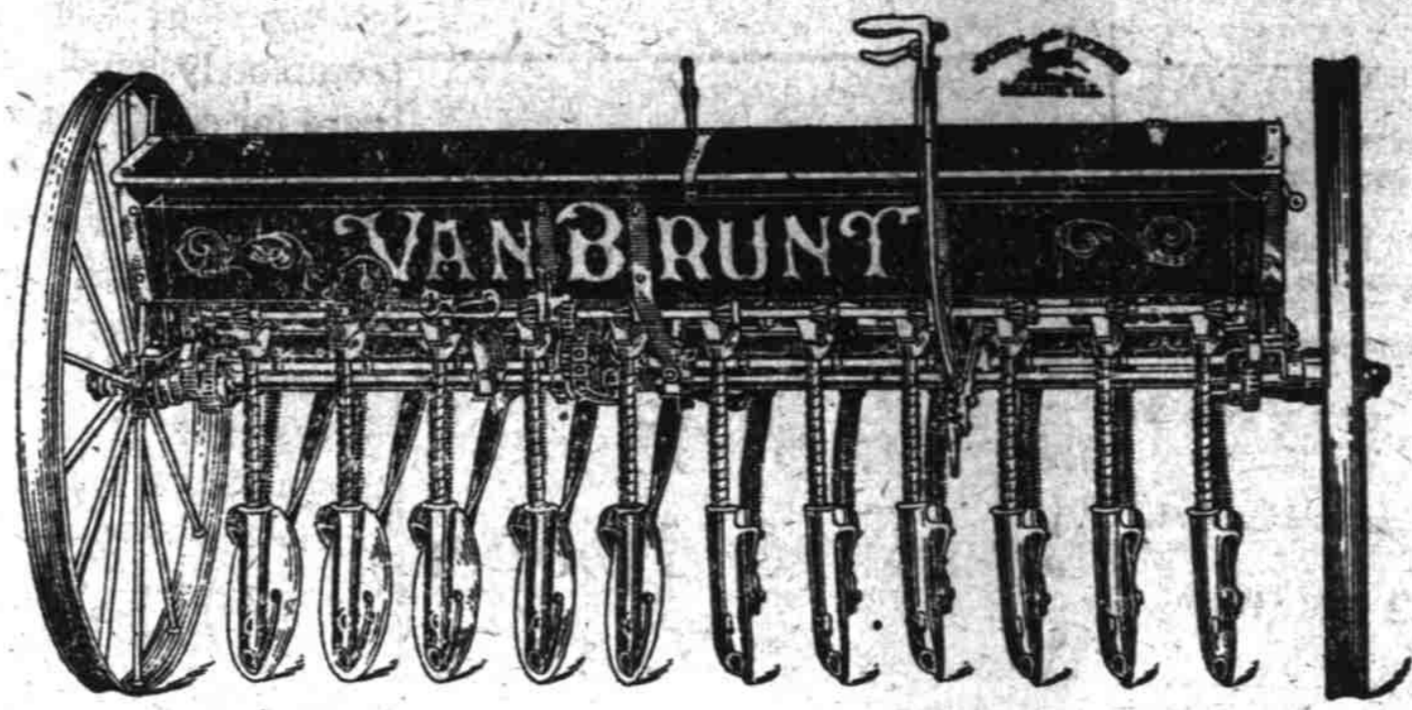
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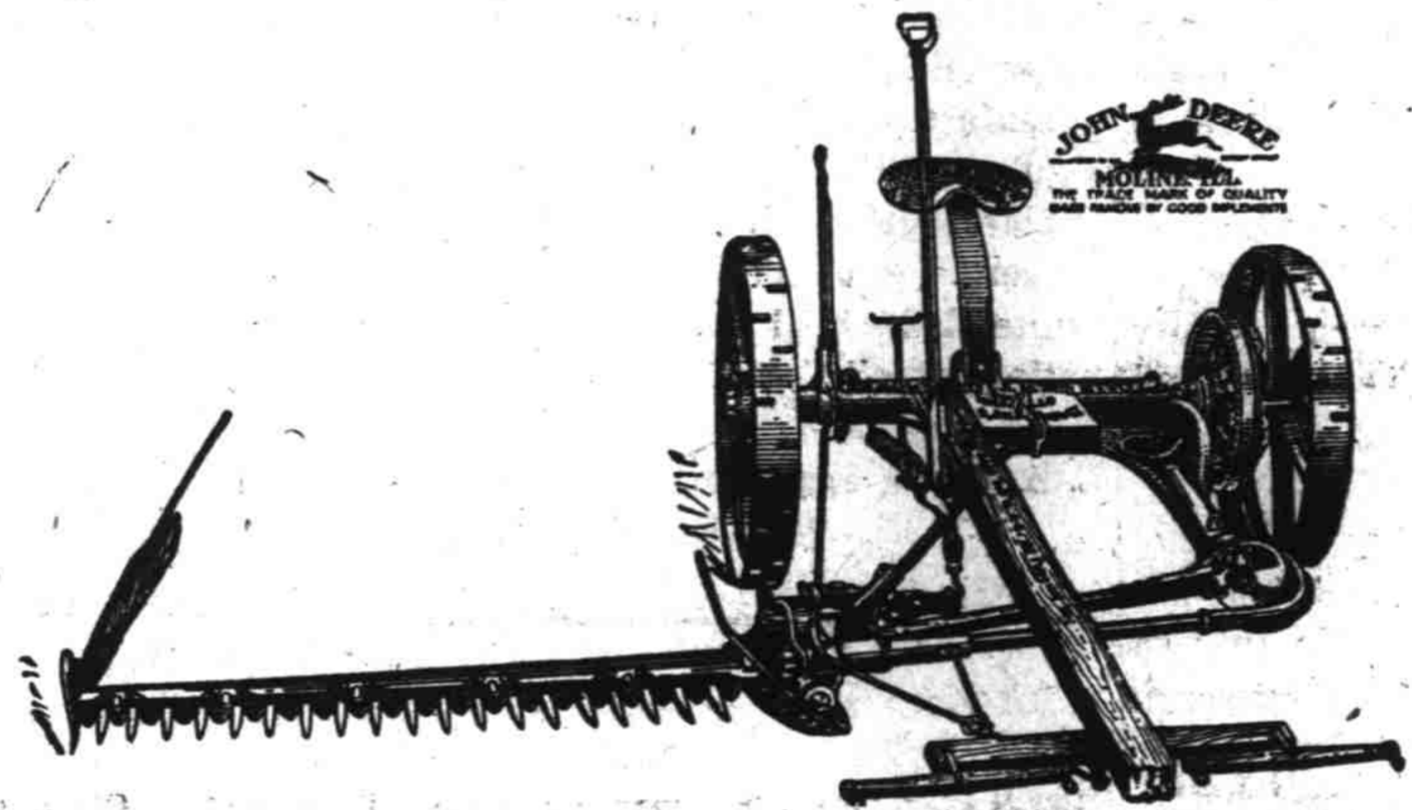
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