WILL INCORPORATE TOWN OF IVYWILD.

Steps toward incorporating the town of Ivywild to include the districts of Ivywild, Brookside and Lihue are to be taken immediately. At a meeting held last night McKesson and Little, attorneys, who have been looking up the legal procedure at the request of the committee appointed by the citizens of the proposed town, Messrs. W. P. Larabee, Edward De La Vergne and J. H. Knapp made a report and it was decided that the committee named should continue its work and go ahead securing names to a petition for the incorporation. This petition must be signed by a certain number of the legally qualified electors of the proposed town and taxpayers thereof and must then be submitted to the county court. The meeting last night was largely attended and the citizens are very enthusiastic over the prospect of having a town of their own. The report of the attorneys was as follows.

State of Colorado, County of El Paso, ss.

In the matter of the incorporation of the town of ———.

The procedure necessary to be taken in the incorporation of a town in this state is as follows:

A survey must first be made to determine the limits or boundaries of the proposed town, and a plat thereof prepared, showing the proposed boundaries, streets, alleys, etc. A petition in writing, signed by not less than 30 of the qualified electors who are land owners of the territory proposed to be incorporated, must then be filed with the county court of the county, to which petition must be annexed an accurate map or plat of the proposed town, and which petition must in all respects comply with the laws of the state.

Upon the filing of this petition, the county court appoints five commissioners, whose duty it is to call an election of all the qualified electors residing within the limits of the proposed town, to submit to them the question of the proposed incorporation, and to carry on the election as required by law, and report the results thereof to the county court.

If the election for the proposed incorporation carries, the clerk of the county court shall at once give notice of the incorporation by publication in a newspaper published in the proposed town, or if there be no newspaper published therein, by posting notices as required by law.

When the incorporation is completed, an election is called by the commissioners above mentioned for the purpose of electing town officers, namely: one mayor and six trustees, who serve until the next annual election. These officers, when elected, appoint such other officers as may be necessary for the good government of the town. The appointed officers of an incorporated town in this state, generally consist of a town clerk and recorder, a town treasurer, a town marshal, a police magistrate, town attorney, etc.

There are many advantages to be gained by the inhabitants of a community by incorporating themselves into a town organization. In the first place, it gives them absolute local self-government. They may adopt such rules or regulations for the government of their town as they may deem necessary; they may have such local improvements as they desire, such as a water system, sewers, electric lights, street improvements, etc.; they may have protection for their homes and property by means of such a local police force as they may desire.

It is particularly desirable and almost necessary that a thickly settled community lying contiguous to a large city, have some means of protection for the inhabitants other than that afforded them by the county and state. Its inhabitants are at all times subjected to the cranks, tramps, thieves and all the disreputable elements that constantly infest cities, and there is no way of punishing them for crimes committed outside the limits of the city, other than the remedies provided by the laws of the state, which are generally wholly inadequate. Where a community has laws and ordinances of its own, as in an incorporated town, the undesirable elements can be easily controlled, or compelled to leave the town by virtue of the local police power, and the people thereby properly protected in their homes.

The additional expense to the people for conducting a town organization, should be very small. Under a wise and economical administration of local affairs, the benefits received by means of incorporation and local self-government, would much more than compensate for the additional cost. In fact, some of the small towns of the state pay the entire expenses of their local government, by means of fines collected in police court, and licenses issued for various occupations, and find it unnecessary to levy any tax whatever upon the property of the town to carry on their government.

Respectfully submitted,

McKesson and Little,

Colorado Springs, Colo., November 15, 1902.