

CHAPTER CLIV.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A SURVEY FOR A CANAL TO CONNECT THE WATERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR WITH THE WATERS OF THE SAINT CROIX RIVER, AND APPROPRIATING MONEY THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

SECTION 1. That W. G. Ward, of Waseca county, as first engineer, L. K. Stannard, of Chisago county, as second engineer, and Robert Davis, of Washington county, as assistant, are hereby constituted a board of commissioners, whose duty it shall be to examine the country, rivers and lakes lying between the head of steamboat navigation on the Saint Croix river and the waters of Lake Superior, at the head of that lake, with discretionary power (after having thoroughly made such examinations) to determine which of the routes agitated for connecting the waters of Lake Superior with the navigable waters of the St. Croix river by canal they deem the most feasible and promising route for such canal.

Duty of commissioners—of whom board to consist.

SEC. 2. Whenever said board of commissioners have determined which route promises most for the future development of the country, they shall thereupon proceed to make a careful and correct survey of such chosen route.

To make careful survey of route determined upon—

SEC. 3. Said board of commissioners shall meet at Stillwater, Washington county, on the first Tuesday of April next, (or on some other day of said month of April which they may appoint) and there and then agree upon the time and place for the commencement of their duties, and make such arrangements and provisions for necessary working parties, outfit and supplies as they deem proper, and as soon thereafter as practicable they shall repair to the head of navigation on the Saint Croix river, and there commence the examination required by this act.

Where and when board to meet—for what purpose.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to make a full report of their doings to the next legislature, which report shall be accompanied with maps and drawings, showing as near as practical the features of the country over which such survey may pass, and a careful estimate of the cost for the construction of such water channel or canal. It shall be the duty of the said commissioners to extend their survey so as to be able to include in their report a correct statement regarding the feasibility of a canal route from Duluth to some point upon the Mississippi river near Sandy lake, in this state.

Board to make full report—when.

Compensation. SEC. 5. The compensation of the board of commissioners shall be the same as allowed to members of the legislature, but any member of said commission performing duties of engineer or second engineer in carrying out the requirements of this act, shall receive such additional compensation as would properly belong to such professional services, to be determined by reference to the compensation of like professional services rendered upon like improvements.

Authorized to draw orders on state treasurer for payment of expenses. SEC. 6. The board of commissioners are hereby authorized to draw orders on the state treasurer from time to time as the work progresses, for the payment of all expenses incurred in carrying out the requirements of this act. All orders shall be signed by the chairman of the board, and paid out of the appropriation made by section seven of this act.

Amount appropriated for expenses. SEC. 7. There is hereby appropriated out of any funds belonging to the state treasury, the sum of three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the payment of expenses incurred by the board of commissioners in carrying out the provisions and requirements of this act.

Commissioners to keep account in detail. SEC. 8. The commissioners shall keep a book in which shall be entered each item of expense incurred, including all payments made to each member of the commission for services rendered, and return such book to the treasurer of state, that the same may be examined by any committee the legislature may hereafter appoint for that purpose.

Not confined within limits of state. SEC. 9. Nothing in this act is intended to confine the commissioners in their examination and survey to the state of Minnesota, or to fix any point on Lake Superior for the terminus of this proposed canal.

When act to take effect. SEC. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 9, 1875.