

CHAPTER LIII.

An Act to organize the Mississippi River Branch Railroad Company.

- SECTION 1 *Incorporators and powers of Incorporation.*
 2 Authority to construct a Railroad.
 3 Capital Stock.
 4 Authorizes counties, cities and towns to subscribe stock.
 5 Books to be opened within one year—Board of Directors to be elected.
 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, of the Minneapolis and Cedar Valley Railroad Company, adopted (See Session Laws, 1856.)
 16 Failure to organize and commence building within three years a forfeiture of Charter.
 17 Authority to run a steam ferry across the Mississippi.
 18 The act to take effect.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. That Burrell S. Reppy, Austin R. Swan, Richard H. Collins, Wm. F. Sharpe, Daniel Sturges, Wm. Rummel, A. P. Foster, Samuel Geissinger, and such other persons as may become associated with them in the manner hereinafter prescribed, are hereby created a body corporate, by the name of the "Mississippi River Branch Railroad Company"; and by that name shall be and are hereby made capable in law to purchase, hold and convey all estate, real and personal, so far as may be necessary for the construction of said Railroad and to grant, lease, or in any manner dispose of the same, to contract and be contracted with, to sue and be sued, to have a common seal, and all such other rights and privileges as may be necessary to carry into effect the objects of this act.

SEC. 2. The said Corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to locate and construct a Railroad, commencing at some point on the West bank of the Mississippi River, at or within three miles above West Newton, Wabashaw County; thence running in a westerly direction by such route as they shall deem most eligible, after making the proper examination and survey, and to Rochester, Orenoco, Faribault, or any other such point or points as one or more connections can be conveniently made with railroads that may be constructed between the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.

SEC. 3. The capital stock of said Company shall be one million dollars, in shares of one hundred dollars each, in such manner as may be provided by the by-laws of said Company.

Subscriptions by cities, towns, &c., to stock

SEC. 4. Any county, city or town through or near which this road may pass, is hereby authorized and empowered to subscribe to the capital stock of said Company and issue bonds for the same—the amount thereof to be determined by the majority of votes given by the electors of said County, city or town, at any special election ordered for that purpose by the proper authorities, at such time as may be required by said Company.

Open books

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the above named corporators, within one year after the passage of this act, to cause to be opened at some designated place in either or all (as they may deem advisable) of the towns of West Newton, Rochester, Oronoco and Faribault, books for subscriptions to the capital stock of said Company, giving notices thereof in one or more newspapers in the Territory or State of Minnesota. After a sum of not less than fifteen thousand dollars shall have been subscribed to the capital stock of said Company, then the subscribers shall become corporators, who, or

Elect Directors a majority of whom, in person or by proxy, shall meet at the town of West Newton and proceed to elect a board of seven Directors, all of whom shall be Stockholders, and who shall immediately organize as hereinafter provided for.

See Session Laws, 1856

Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of the act to incorporate the Minneapolis and Cedar Valley Railroad Company, approved March 1, 1856, are hereby adopted and reenacted as parts of this charter, to be known and numbered as therein known and numbered.

Forfeiture

SEC. 16. If said Company shall not organize and actually commence building said road within three years from the passage of this act, and complete the same within eight years from the organization of said Company, then this act shall be null and void.

May establish Ferry

SEC. 17. This Company may and are hereby authorized and empowered to establish and run in connection with their road, or oftener if desirable, a steam ferry across the Mississippi River, from a point at or near their terminus to any eligible point on the Wisconsin shore, and may charge therefor such rates of ferriage as are now authorized to be charged by the Ferry Company between La Crescent and La Crosse.

Take effect

SEC. 18. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

J. W. FURBER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN B. BRISBIN,
President of the Council.

APPROVED—May twenty-third, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven. S. MEDARY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE Minnesota, }
SAINT PAUL, July 22, 1857. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original bill now on in this office.

CHAS. L. CHASE,
Secretary of Minnesota Territory.