

CHAPTER X.

An Act for the relief of the sufferers from the Sioux war.

- SECTION 1.** Governor authorized to appoint Commissioners to ascertain the number of persons slain, and the amount of property destroyed by the Indians during the present war.
2. Commissioners to give notice of time and place of meeting for the purpose of receiving testimony respecting the lives lost and property destroyed.
 3. Commissioners to ascertain the condition of those killed or maimed by said Indians.
 4. To ascertain the kinds, number, value and ownership of property destroyed.
 5. Commissioners authorized to administer all necessary oaths.
 6. Commissioners to report result of investigations to Governor.
 7. Length of time allowed Commissioners to receive testimony.
 8. Power to extend time.
 9. Commissioners to take oath for faithful performance of duties—compensation—vacancy, how filled.
 10. Act, when to take effect.

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

Governor to appoint commissioners—for what purpose

SECTION 1. That the Governor of the State, be and he is hereby authorized and required, so soon as convenient, after this act shall take effect, to appoint three discreet and trustworthy citizens of the State to act as Commissioners, to inquire into, and ascertain, as far as practicable, the names, relationship and number of those who have been slain by the Sioux Indians, or other Indians, confederating or acting with them, in their present war upon the people of this State; and, also, to inquire into and ascertain the kind, amount, value and ownership of the property and effects of citizens and settlers that have been, or may hereafter be taken and destroyed by said Indians during the present war.

To give notice of time and place of meeting

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners, within ten days after their appointment, to give notice, by publication in the newspapers of the city of St. Paul, and such other newspapers as may be printed and published in the several counties in which said Indians have committed, or may hereafter commit depredations, or take the lives of any of the people, of the time or times, and place or places, where they will attend to receive testimony respecting the lives that have been lost, and the property that has been or may be taken or

destroyed by said Indians, which notice shall designate such place within the district of country where this loss of life and property has accrued, as will be most convenient of access to sufferers and their friends; specifying the length of time they or either of them will remain at the respective points named in such notice; and said notice shall be given for at least three weeks before the time fixed for receiving such testimony, and the expenses of printing said notices shall be paid by the State. And provided, that in case any agent or commissioner is appointed by United States authority, to investigate and adjust the matters embraced in the first section of this act, then no commissioners shall be appointed under this act.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of said commissioners to inquire into and ascertain as far as practicable, the names and conditions of all who have been killed or maimed by said Indians, whether the persons so killed or maimed were the heads of families, or whether others who survive have been dependent upon them for support, and in any such case to inquire into the circumstances of the surviving friends, relatives and dependents, and the place of residence of both the deceased and the survivors.

To ascertain condition of those killed, &c

SEC. 4. That in making inquiries into the losses sustained by the people, by the depredations and robberies of said Indians, said commissioners shall ascertain the kinds, number and amount, value and ownership of the property and effects alleged to have been taken or destroyed by said Indians, and shall state also the business or occupation of the person or persons whose property or effects were so taken or destroyed.

To ascertain the kind and value of property destroyed

SEC. 5. That said commissioners are hereby authorized to appoint different places for the purpose of receiving testimony respecting persons killed or maimed as aforesaid, and the loss and destruction of property and effects as aforesaid, at the same time; and any one or more of said commissioners attending at the place or places so appointed for receiving such testimony, shall be, and hereby is authorized to proceed with the inquiry and receive and reduce said testimony to writing. That said commissioners and each of them, for the purpose of taking testimony, are authorized to administer all necessary oaths and affirmations, but when said testimony or other proofs shall have been taken and reduced to writing

Authorized to administer all necessary oaths

ting, said commissioners shall examine the same together, and from said testimony and other proofs, ascertain the number and relationship of the persons killed or maimed, and determine the amount, value and ownership of the property and effects found to have been stolen or destroyed.

To report result
of investigations
to Governor

SEC. 6. That after having received and reduced to writing all the proper testimony, and other proofs offered before them, or either of them, said commissioners shall report the result of their inquiries to the Governor of the State, whose duty it shall be to forward the same to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and request them to lay it before their respective bodies.

Length of time
allowed commis-
sioners to receive
testimony

SEC. 7. That said commissioners shall continue to attend at the place or places named in the notice hereby required to be given, and continue to receive testimony for such length of time as shall be necessary, not exceeding in the aggregate thirty days from the date designated in such notice for the meeting.

Power to extend
time

SEC. 8. That should thirty days be insufficient to receive the proof that may be offered, the Governor, upon the representation of said commissioners or a majority of them, shall have power to extend the time; and that after such period shall have expired, said commissioners, or either of them, are hereby authorized to continue to receive until the first day of January, 1863, all proof which may be offered to them by persons who were absent from the State, or who, by reason of their services in the army or volunteer force of the State, were unable to appear before said commissioners during the period named in the notice aforesaid, and should such proof be received after they have made their regular report to the Governor, they shall make a special or supplementary report embracing such subsequent inquiries and the result thereof.

Commissioners to
take oath—com-
pensation—va-
cancy how filled

SEC. 9. That before entering upon the discharge of their duties, said commissioners respectively shall take and subscribe an oath that they will severally perform the duties of the office faithfully and honestly to the best of their judgment and ability, and they shall receive as a compensation for their services the sum of three dollars per day for each day they are actually engaged in the discharge of their duties, and ten cents for each mile necessarily traveled, which shall be in full for said services and their expenses, and should a vacancy occur in said com-

mission, from any cause, the Governor is hereby authorized to fill the same.

SEC. 10. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved September 27th, 1862.

CHAPTER XI.

An Act to provide against the traffic of ardent spirits with the Indians.

- SECTION 1.** Penalty for furnishing liquor to Indians in this State in any manner.
 2. Duties of sheriffs, constables and justices of the peace.
 3. Repeal of former act.
 4. Act when to take effect.

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

SECTION 1. That if any person shall sell, exchange, give, barter or dispose of any spirituous liquors or wines, to any Indians within this State, such person, on conviction thereof before the proper district court of this State, shall be punished by imprisonment in the State prison for a period not exceeding two years, and shall be fined not more than three hundred dollars, and in all cases arising under this act, Indians shall be competent witnesses.

Penalty for furnishing liquors to Indians

SEC. 2. All sheriffs, constables and justices of the peace, within this State are, under penalty of forfeiting their respective offices, required to make complaint of such violations of the provisions of this chapter as may come within their knowledge, and the judges of the several district courts in this State, are hereby required to give this chapter in special charge to the grand juries of the several counties in their districts.

Duties of sheriffs, constables and justices of the peace

SEC. 3. An act entitled "An act to provide against