

CHAPTER 85.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECOVERY AND DESTRUCTION OF WHAT ARE COMMONLY KNOWN AS MINNESOTA STATE RAILROAD BONDS AND THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS INCURRED IN THE BUILDING OF CERTAIN RAILROADS FOR WHICH SAID BONDS WERE ISSUED.

WHEREAS, There is outstanding a large number of documents commonly known as the Minnesota State Railroad Bonds, the validity of which the people of the State do not recognize, but which it is desirable should be recovered, to the end that the same may be destroyed. Therefore,

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

SECTION 1. All lands donated to the State of Minnesota for the purpose of internal improvements and known as the five hundred thousand acres of internal improvement lands, and the funds arising from the sales of said lands, shall be disposed of in the manner provided for in this act, for the purpose of recovering the said bonds and the satisfaction of said claims, to the end that the same may be destroyed. But this act shall not be construed as in any manner preventing the sale of said lands under existing laws.

Internal improvement lands to be given for the bonds.

SEC. 2. On and after the first (1st) Monday in July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine (1879), the Commissioner of the State land office shall be ready to exchange said lands for said bonds and for said claims, at a rate and proportion that shall make the whole of said lands equal to the whole amount of said bonds and claims, together with the unpaid coupons. The Land Commissioner, with the advice and approval of the Governor, shall adopt such rules and regulations for exchanging the lands for the said bonds and claims as shall as nearly as practicable secure to the holder of each bond and claim an equal chance for choice of lands for each bond and claim deposited for such exchange, on or before said first (1st) Monday in July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine (1879).

Time of exchange—rules and regulations.

All bonds presented for exchange after said date, shall have choice of land in the order presented. Deeds of conveyance of said land so exchanged shall be made in the manner now provided by law, in case of the sale of said lands.

Order of presentation.

SEC. 3. The Commissioner of the Land Office shall cause a notice to be published in two (2) daily newspapers at the State capital, and in one (1) daily newspaper in each of the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Milwaukee, giving a general description and the location of said lands, and the time and manner that the same will be ex-

Public notice of exchange to be made.

changed for said bonds. He shall also cause such notice to be mailed to every holder of said bonds, so far as he shall be able to obtain the address of the same. Such publication and mailing of notice to be not less than two months before said first (1st) Monday in July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine (1879).

Lands to be free from taxation until sold, not over seven years.

SEC. 4. The land so exchanged for said State railroad bonds and claims, shall be free from taxation until sold, or contracted to be sold, or leased, or used and cultivated by the grantees of the State or their legal representatives. But such exemption from taxation shall not extend beyond seven (7) years from the first (1st) day of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine (1879).

Funds and securities for land sold—stumpage.

SEC. 5. The funds and securities derived from the sale of the internal improvement lands shall be regarded and treated for the purposes of this act as equal to the number of acres of land from which derived, and the holders of said bonds and claims may, in the order of their choice, take the proper proportion of said funds and securities in place of land. All money received from stumpage of said internal improvement lands, shall be apportioned to the land from which derived, and shall go with said land as a part thereof. The State Land Commissioner shall give a certificate for any excess in number of acres of land to which a bond would be entitled over and above legal subdivisions of said land, and when said certificates are surrendered in amounts equal to a legal subdivision of land, they shall be received in exchange for the same.

Record of surrenders—destruction of bonds.

SEC. 6. A complete record of all bonds and claims surrendered, shall be kept by the Land Commissioner, and the name and address of the person from whom received. All such bonds shall be destroyed by fire in the presence of the Governor and Attorney General, who shall attest the fact of records.

Certain claims and judgments.

SEC. 7. The claims or judgment of McDonald & Graham, and of Fitz, Grindall & Keepers, as recognized and set forth in chapter one hundred and fifty-two (152), on page three hundred and eighty-eight (388) of Special Laws of eighteen hundred and sixty-seven (1867), and the claims hereinafter specified, shall be regarded and treated the same as an equal amount of said State railroad bonds, and be received the same in exchange for said lands.

Commission on unadjusted claims.

SEC. 8. There shall be a commission appointed by the Governor consisting of three (3) disinterested persons, who shall examine all claims presented by persons who did the work or furnished supplies or material for the building of the railroads for which such bonds were issued and which were never paid for by the contractors or sub-contractors under whose charge the same were done and furnished, and which claims are evidenced by some order, acceptance, book account or other writing; and for such claims as shall be valid and

unpaid, said commission shall issue numbered certificates for such indebtedness, and such certificates shall be received on the same basis as the bonds and for all the purposes contemplated by this act; but no claims shall be received from contractors or sub-contractors under any railroad company.

SEC. 9. Such commission shall advertise in at least three (3) of the State papers having greatest circulation, during a period of two (2) weeks, where and at what time they will hear and ascertain such claims, such places being Owatonna, Winona and St. Paul, and shall make their report to the Governor by the first (1st) day of March, A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy-nine (1879), giving a detailed account of the amounts of such claims allowed. Such commission shall each be allowed a compensation of five (\$5) dollars per day and ten (10) cents per mile for each mile actually traveled in going to and returning from the places appointed for the meetings of said commission. *Provided,* That such commission shall not be allowed compensation for more than twenty (20) days in the adjustment of said claims.

Advertisement
of meeting of
commission.

SEC. 10. This act shall be submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election in November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878). The ballots for the adoption of this act shall be "For the recovery and destruction of the railroad bonds, Yes." The ballots against the adoption of this act shall be "For the recovery and destruction of the railroad bonds, No." The returns of the election on the question shall be made and the result ascertained in the same manner provided by law for the election of State officers. If a majority shall have voted for the measure, the Governor shall make proclamation of the adoption of the same.

Submission to
vote.

SEC. 11. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved March 9, 1878.

CHAPTER 86.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER PROTECTION OF THE WAGES OF MECHANICS, CLERKS, LABORERS AND OTHERS.

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

SECTION 1. That all moneys that may be due or shall hereafter become due for labor or services rendered by any mechanic, clerk, laborer or servants from any person or persons, or chartered company employing mechanics, clerks, laborers or servants either as owners, lessees, contractors or

Lien for labor.