

## CHAPTER 123.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SEED GRAIN FOR SUFFERERS FROM GRASSHOPPER RAVAGES.

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

SECTION 1. The board of county commissioners of Otter Tail county, in the State of Minnesota, be and they are hereby authorized to execute and issue in the name of and for said county, bonds for the payment of money by said county, in the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) each, to an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), with interest at a rate not to exceed ten per cent. and payable as such commissioners may determine within five (5) years, and said county shall be bound to the payment of said bonds. Said commissioners may negotiate, transfer and sell said bonds at a rate not less than ninety-five (95) cents of their par value, and apply the proceeds of the same to the purchase of seed grain for such farmers in Otter Tail county as lost a part or all of their growing crops of grain in the year A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877), by reason of the grasshoppers destroying the same.

SEC. 2. The county commissioners or some one authorized by them, shall purchase and deliver the seed grain to the persons entitled thereto, in such manner and at such time and place as they may direct.

SEC. 3. No person shall receive any seed grain from said county until he or she has made written application to said board of county commissioners upon oath, stating that he or she is a farmer residing in said county, that during the year A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877), he or she was engaged in farming in said county, and lost a part or all of his or her growing crop of grain in said year A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877), by reason of the ravages of the grasshoppers, stating the amount and kind of grain destroyed, and the number of acres which he or she intends or is able to seed in the spring of A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878); and no person shall receive any greater amount in value of seed grain than he or she lost by reason of the ravages of the grasshoppers in A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877) upon his or her farm in said county, nor shall any person receive any greater amount of seed grain than is necessary to seed the acres which may be fitted for seeding in the spring of A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878), on the farm upon which the applicant resides in said county; and it must further appear in said application, that by reason of the grasshopper ravages upon his or her farm in said county, in A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877) he or she is utterly unable by any

resource of their own, to procure seed grain for the spring of A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878), which application shall be attested by at least two (2) witnesses, and such application shall be filed in the office of the county auditor, open to public inspection; and any person found guilty of false swearing shall suffer all the pains and penalties of perjury; and if said commissioners make any allowance upon such application, they shall make an order to that effect, stating the amount and kind of grain so allowed to said applicant.

SEC. 4. For the purpose of hearing applications for seed grain and for no other purpose whatever, the said county commissioners may, if they see fit, hold a meeting of said board at Parker's Prairie, in said county.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of said board to keep a correct statement of the amount of seed grain furnished each person, the cost of the same per bushel, together with a description of the land occupied by said applicant, in a book to be used for that purpose and no other.

SEC. 6. Each and every person so receiving seed grain, shall affix his or her receipt for said grain under the entry in said book; said entry shall contain a statement that said sum is taxable against the person receiving seed grain, and against his or her personal property, or his or her real property, in the discretion of said board, and that in consideration of the grain so received, he will pay to the said county the value thereof through the form of a tax to be levied and collected as provided in this act.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of said board of county commissioners in the year A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878), to caused to be assesse against the property of each and every person receiving seed grain under the provisions of this act, a sum equal to the cost of said grain, which said sum shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time as other real and personal property taxes.

SEC. 8. If any person receiving seed grain from said board under the provisions of this act, shall knowingly use the said grain for any other purpose than for seed substantially as stated in his or her application, he or she shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding one (1) year, nor less than six (6) months, or by fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), nor less than two hundred dollars (\$200), or by fine and imprisonment both, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 12, 1878.